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20 PAGES

Wilmington business owner competes in Greatest Baker of 2020 competition

By CASEY STEVENSON
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — Wilmington is home to one of the Greatest Bakers of 2020. Kristen Leonard, founder and owner of Bliss Confection Co., is among the year's greatest bakers in the country.

Her website, blissconfectionco.com, outlines how each confection she makes is designed from scratch, with Leonard collaborating with each client to craft beautiful and delicious pastries that would become a memorable part of the events they were catered for, such as weddings or birthdays.

In a quote from Leonard's website:

"Most events or celebrations involve dessert... or at least they should! More often than not, the dessert becomes the backdrop for our photos. The shots from our childhood posed in front of our birthday cake, the family seated around the Thanksgiving table, and of course the newlyweds in front of their wedding cake. Because these photos mark a memory of an event, one should hope the food being pictured is in fact picture-worthy!"

Her aunt, Kathleen Doherty, shares Leonard's story and how she became one of the Greatest

Bakers of 2020.

According to Doherty, "Kristen grew up in Lunenburg, went to New England Culinary Institute in Montpelier, Vermont, and graduated in 2010. Since then, she has worked at Sweet Cupcakes and then as pastry chef in these Boston restaurants: Legal Harbor-side, Sorellina, Moo and Ostra.

"Growing up, Kristen was (and still is) a fun-loving, great storyteller, always had us laughing, and never wanted her picture taken. She was a competitive figure skater and homecoming queen in high school."

Leonard found inspiration and passion in baking when she was little, as she "always baked with her mom and both grandmothers and loved rainy days and snow days when the family baked. And (this) continued when she began taking baking class at Michael's in high school."

Leonard said, "I knew I wanted to do something hands on for college... creativity runs in the family. Heather was in art school, dad with his woodworking, mom with her crafting, nan with watercolors, and grandma and all the knitting and sewing. Mom and dad had me get a job at Gibbet Hill in Groton to

Kristen Leonard, founder and owner of Bliss Confection Co.

(Courtesy photo)

see if I'd like the food industry before starting culinary school."

Bliss Confection Co. was founded when Leonard "started part-time baking for friends and family," her aunt shared. "She created her own business to customize her baked goods, and worked out of the Orange Door Kitchen. The COVID-19 pandemic found her furloughed in March, so her business needed to grow."

Leonard added, "I had extra time to devote to my own business and no clue when I'd return to the restaurant. My life had only gotten busier and busier through the pandemic."

For customers with allergies, Bliss Confection Co has gluten free and

dairy free products. And also can make vegan treats.

Leonard's goal for Bliss, according to her aunt, is to "continue her custom desserterie in a brick and mortar establishment. She gets enjoyment from being able to bring each customer's vision to life in a work of art that also tastes delicious. She loves that her creations are the picture worthy centerpiece in a special family celebration. She has great stories to tell about her creations and the occasions they are for."

One example Doherty provides is when Leonard made a "car wash birthday cake for a four-year old that loves going to the car wash."

In a post from Leonard

announcing her entry into the contest, it is shown her motivations for entering the Greatest Baker of 2020 contest.

"So I did a thing. I don't usually like contests, but I decided I've got nothing to lose and it's 2020. Who knows what could happen."

In terms of Leonard's progress into the contest, Doherty said, "she made it to be one of the last 32 semifinalists, although she did not make finals. I figure there were more than 3,000 original contestants worldwide"

When asked about what she was most excited about in terms of the contest, Doherty explained, "I loved the excitement of each round. Family from all over the US rallied. We spread the word on

our What's-App family group chat first. Then, as she went to the second round, we spread the news further. Extended family and friends did an incredible job sharing. Her sister in Albania spread it to coworkers from previous assignments in Israel and Hong Kong. It truly was something fun and cheerful to be excited about in these crazy times."

The Town Crier congratulates Leonard on her placement and hard work, and look forward to all the things she will accomplish. The year 2020 has been a difficult year for many, but it is stories like Leonard's that show that with passion and dedication one can succeed and find the light in even the darkest of times.

Planning Board reviews proposed articles for Town Meeting in the spring

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — During their meeting on Tuesday night, the Planning Board considered feedback on several potential articles for Town Meeting. They started with the plan to rezone a cluster of undersized lots on Bailey Road, Marrietta Avenue, Mozart Avenue, and Aldrich Road from R20 to R10.

Wilmington Director of Planning and Conservation Valerie Gingrich explained that the proposed article started from a denied request for a resident

to put in a pool. She said that rezoning these properties changes the required setbacks from 20 feet with R20 to 15 feet with R10.

Gingrich mentioned a concern that residents had identified over the phone, whether rezoning the town-owned lots in the neighborhood makes it easier for them to be developed in the future. She said the residents like having the woods there. She added that the process for the town getting rid of parcels is lengthy and involves several approvals including the property review board, the town manager, and a Town Meeting vote. Several residents joined the zoom call to agree with the concern she reported.

One solution Gingrich proposed to the board was to have these parcels excluded from the zoning change. Chairman Michael Sorrentino said that the town is trying to move

away from piecemeal zoning and would prefer to keep these in the rezoned area. The board did mention that rezoning the parcels doesn't change whether they're buildable, suggesting that the process for building on those properties remains difficult either way. Gingrich invited anyone to reach out with comments.

They later considered three other proposed articles for Town Meeting, covering uses for brew pubs in town, as of right restaurant uses, and groundwater protection district special permit for nonresidential uses. They voted in favor of all four articles for town counsel to review as written, although they discussed whether the by-law for brewpubs allowed the sale of alcohol to individuals or just to other establishments for resale.

The board returned to the

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Remembering Sean Collier

A memorial for former MIT Police Officer and Wilmington native Sean Collier. Sunday, Jan. 3 would have been his 35th birthday. Collier was killed by the two men responsible for the Boston Marathon bombings.

(Photo courtesy twitter.com/onlyinbos)

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Wilmington Library News:

Ted Reinstein takes us on a virtual road trip on Jan. 11

Adult Programs

Winter Birding in the Wildwood Cemetery

Saturday, Jan. 9, 10 a.m.

Join experienced birder Steve Hale, owner of Open World Explorers, for a birding expedition in the Wildwood Cemetery. Find out what feathered friends stay for the season! Steve holds university degrees in marine biology, evolutionary biology, and ecology and is an avid hiker, birder, and experienced naturalist. Please dress for the weather and bring your own binoculars (a few binoculars will be available for sharing — wipes provided). Please meet at the back of the library at 10 am for the outing. Masks must be worn and social distancing observed. Ages 12+

Ted Reinstein: The New Normal New England Road Trip

Monday, Jan. 11, 7 p.m.

Join Ted Reinstein, reporter for WCVB's "Chronicle," as he regales you with quirky characters in Maine and Vermont, authentic and beloved diners in tiny towns, familiar landmarks and "who knew?" places plus finds off the beaten path. The

talk takes viewers on a trip they may otherwise not get to take these days and is curated from more than 20 years of reporting from all over New England. This program is in partnership with Flint Memorial Library, Memorial Hall Library, Tewksbury Library, and Wilmington Memorial Library.

How To Play Chess

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 7 p.m.

This class teaches you the fundamentals of chess as a strategy game. In one hour you will learn the basics including: setting up the chess men, using pawns, how to move the pieces, ten tips for playing a better game, and how to win in four moves. Led by chess instructor Glenn Davison. Ages 8 to adult.

Author Talk:

The Last Traverse

Thursday, Jan. 14, 7 p.m.

Author Ty Gagne talks about his new book The Last Traverse: Tragedy and Resilience in the Winter Whites. It is the true story of two friends on a winter hike on the Franconia Ridge that goes awry, and the search-and-rescue efforts that keep it from becoming a bigger tragedy. Ty

is CEO of PRIMEX, a public entity risk pool based in New Hampshire; he is also a certified wilderness first responder

Poetry Circle

Saturday, Jan. 16, 9:15 a.m.

Do you enjoy writing poetry? Want input on your work? If so, this group is for you. When registering, please provide your email address so you can receive an agenda and any prep materials in advance. Led by local writing enthusiast, Barbara Alevras.

Youth Programs

Pajama Jam

Monday, Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Join the fabulous Bernadette Baird for interactive music and movement. Come in your coziest pajamas, your comfiest slippers, and your most favorite stuffed animal! Ages 0-4

Kindergarten Book Club

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 4 p.m.

Calling all kindergartners! Join us for a virtual book club for kindergartners who miss storytime or those who love to be read to. We will

read, talk about a few books and do a virtual activity.

Family Craft Night

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 6:30 p.m.

Join our Zoom event for a night of fun creativity with your loved ones! Every family will receive a craft bag full of supplies needed for this month's project. Pick up your craft kits at the library after registering.

Online LEGO Club

Thursday, Jan. 14, 4 p.m.

Build LEGOs (or whatever building materials you have at your house) at the same time as other LEGO fans online. At the end, you can share what you made during the time, and show one other item that you may have already built at home. Ages 5+.

Social Justice Service Group

Saturday, Jan. 16, 11 a.m.

Join us over Zoom for a Social Justice Service Group meeting! Meet like-minded teens, watch and discuss a short documentary, and plan future activities. You will earn community service hours for attending. Grades 9-12

Preschool Storytime

Tuesday, Jan. 12, 10 a.m.

This storytime for preschoolers includes books, rhymes, and music. Ages 3-5

Time for Twos

Wednesday, Jan. 13, 10 a.m.

This storytime for two year olds includes books, rhymes, music and movement.

Baby Time

Thursdays, Jan. 14, 10 a.m.

This program of songs, rhymes, games and picture books is for babies under the age of two years and their caregivers.

WML Virtual Programming

See our entire calendar of events and register for programs at wmlibrary.org. You will be emailed a Zoom link prior to the program.

Library Hours

The Library is open for curbside pickup only, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday & Saturday. Staff is available by phone 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday & Saturday.

Library's Digital Resources

Take advantage of the following digital resources while hunkering down and staying safe during the winter months. If you do not have a library card, you can get one remotely by going to www.wmlibrary.org.

Overdrive (aka "Libby" app on your smartphone) Find ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and movies.

Hoopla - Find ebooks, TV shows, audiobooks and comics. Simultaneous use means titles always available.

Kanopy - Stream classic movies, Indie hits, documentaries and more.

Freegal - Download and keep up to five songs per week. Stream up to three hours per day.

Tumble Book Library - Animated picture books, read-along chapter books and more for children.

Creative Bug - Find over 1000 video classes on knitting, sewing, cooking and other crafts.

Ancestry Library - Do genealogy research with this database that covers billions of records from census data to directories, and photos to family trees. Access from home is available for a limited period of time.

Wilmington music school

Passim awards music fund grant to Rockabye Beats

CAMBRIDGE — Passim has awarded \$40,141 to 24 musicians through its Iguana Music Fund including Wilmington music school Rockabye Beats. The Iguana Music Fund awards gifts annually to musicians for career building projects and for projects that provide community service through music.

Established in 2008 after an anonymous donor approached Passim with the idea to start a program to support local artists' career growth, the fund provides grants from \$500 to \$2,000 for musicians with a strong New England connection.

Grants are allocated in the areas of recording or manufacturing assistance, publicity and marketing support, equipment and instruments, songwriting retreats, tour support, special projects and other specific activities that promote artists work and/or professional growth.

Over the past decade, Passim has awarded more than \$475,000 in grants, funding more than 285 projects. This year, Passim

received 139 applications from across New England. Due to the pandemic, Passim saw a dramatic increase in requests for audio and video recording equipment for home studios and live streaming.

"With musicians unable to perform in traditional settings, the Iguana Fund is needed now more than ever," said Abby Altman, Club Manager at Passim. "Artists are looking to make the best of these times by focusing on home recording, new solo albums, and providing high-quality online content. We are confident these grants will not only help the individual recipients, but impact communities across New England as a whole."

This year, with many artists unable to tour, they are focusing on putting out new music. The Iguana Music Fund will help a dozen new recording projects including rapper Nate Nics who plans to put together a concept hip-hop musical exploring the theme presented in Paul Lawrence's poem "We Wear the Mask."

Starting in January, folk rock group Billy Wylder will be rolling out a series of singles off their new EP "Whatcha Looking For."

Casey Murray and Molly Tucker, Halley Neal, Home

Despot, Lake Saint Daniel, Maddie Witler, and Mairi Chaimbeul are all working on debut albums. Dave Richardson, Ethan Setiawan, and Noah y Maurizio will also use the grant to create new music.

Passim also received a number of requests from artists looking to purchase recording or streaming equipment as the pandemic has forced most musicians to work from home. Alisa Amador and Hayley Reardon will purchase professional recording equipment to put together new albums.

Diana Alvarez, Gabriella Simpkins, Isa Burke, Mercedes Escobar, and Sadie Gustafson-Zook are buying professional streaming equipment in order to share their music during the pandemic.

Additionally, Abigale Reisman is looking to record a series of videos exploring the treasures of the Jewish violin, while Rockabye Beats will put together a 12-part video series teaching children about music, dancing, Spanish language, colors, food, and more.

A pair of musicians will use the grants to put together a live concert. DJ WhySham will create "A Social Justice Trap Story," a showcase presenting women and non-bina-

ry artist in Boston.

Juventas New Music Ensemble will host a concert featuring chamber music by composers from every continent. Finally, Little Roots Music will use the grant to hire guest musicians, dancers, storytellers, and puppeteers for online music classes for young children.

Passim's Iguana Music Fund continues to support a multi-year "Baby Iguana" grant for the Miles of Music Camp, a week-long retreat for students of all ages exploring traditional folk music and modern songwriting.

About Passim

The mission of Passim is to provide truly exceptional and interactive live musical experiences for both performers and audiences, to nurture artists at all stages of their career, and to build a vibrant music community. We do so through our legendary listening venue, music school, artist grants and outreach programs.

As a nonprofit since 1994, Passim carries on the heritage of our predecessors-the historic Club 47 (1958-1968) and for-profit Passim (1969-1994). We cultivate a diverse mix of musical traditions, where the emphasis is on the relationship between

performers and audience and teachers and students.

Located in Harvard Square, Passim serves Cambridge and the broader region by featuring local, national and international artists. Our ultimate goal is to help the performance arts flourish and thereby enrich the lives of members of our community.

For a complete schedule, visit www.passim.org

The 2020 Iguana Music Fund grant recipients:

- Abigale Reisman
- Alisa Amador
- Billy Wylder
- Casey Murray and Molly Tucker
- Dave Richardson
- Diana Alvarez
- DJ WhySham
- Ethan Setiawan
- Gabriella Simpkins
- Halley Neal
- Hayley Reardon
- Home Despot
- Isa Burke
- Juventas New Music Ensemble

- Lake Saint Daniel
 - Little Roots Music
 - Maddie Witler
 - Mairi Chaimbeul
 - Mercedes Escobar
 - Nate Nics
 - Noah y Maurizio
 - Rockabye Beats
 - Sadie Gustafson-Zook
- Renewal of multi-year 'Baby Iguana' grant for Miles of Music Camp

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RETIREMENT INCOME OPTIONS EXPANDED
— PART I —

The Setting Every Community Up for Retirement Enhancement (SECURE) Act was signed into law on December 20, 2019. The SECURE Act (the Act) is intended to incentivize employers to offer retirement plans, promote additional retirement savings, and enhance retiree financial security. While some of the provisions of the Act will become effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 2019, mandatory plan amendments to cover SECURE Act changes will not be required until the 2022 plan year for most plans (with government and collectively bargained plans having until 2024). The most notable changes are summarized below and in next week's column.

Pooled Employer Plans (PEPs): The Act allows employers of all sizes and types of businesses to join together to create a new type of Multiple Employer Plan (MEP) referred to as a Pooled Employer Plan (PEP). A PEP permits unrelated employers to pool their resources and participate in a PEP, which will still be treated as a single plan under ERISA. This is a fairly dramatic change from current law, where a plan sponsored by a group of employers that are not under common control may be treated as multiple plans for ERISA purposes unless the employers can prove they have certain "commonality" of interests. This change should make retirement plans more accessible. This plan type will not become effective until plan years beginning after December 31, 2020. Additional guidance by the IRS and DOL is expected to be forthcoming.

Presented as a service to the community by
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News and notes from WCTV

Hello friends and neighbors! Here's what's going on at WCTV!

KEEP THAT NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION YOU MADE!

GET UP OFF THE COUCH AND GET MOVING
If you promised yourself this is the year you get fit, we've got just the programs for you!

Both of these programs air on our access channels — Verizon 39, Comcast 99 and on demand at wctv.org.

Special Exercise with Mary and Fred. Watch this fun and light-hearted program on Monday's at 11 a.m. and Saturday's at 10 a.m. on Verizon 39, Comcast 99 and On-Demand at wctv.org.

mand at wctv.org.

Yoga with Joan. Limber up with Joan on Tuesday's and Thursday's at 2 p.m. on Verizon 39, Comcast 99 and On-demand at wctv.org.

WCTV IS LOOKING FOR LOVE!

BE PART OF OUR "SPREAD THE LOVE" PROJECT!

In the words of the Beatles, "All you need is Love" and WCTV would like you to help us spread a little more! Just in time for Valentine's Day, WCTV will be featuring local stories about all kinds of love: soulmates, friendship, family, siblings and even the love we have for our furry friends. We'd also like to

hear about why you love Wilmington and have made this town your home! Participants will be interviewed via Zoom and will be given the questions for these short, pre-taped segments in advance. If you'd like to be part of this project please email Lisa Kapala at: lisa@wctv.org by or before Jan. 20. Space for this program is limited, please respond ASAP.

UPCOMING MEETINGS COVERED BY WCTV:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN — Monday, Jan. 11 - 7 p.m., "LIVE" on Verizon 37 and Comcast 9 or On-Demand at: wctv.org

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

— Wednesday, Jan. 13 - 7 p.m., "LIVE" on Verizon 37 and Comcast 9 or On-Demand at: wctv.org

WCTV is located at: 10 Waltham Street, Wilmington
Office Hours by Appointment: (978) 657-4066

Questions about WCTV? Contact info@wctv.org
WCTV Channels: Public Channel:

Verizon 37, Comcast 9 Meetings & Government: Verizon 38, Comcast 22

Access: Verizon 39, Comcast 99

To watch programs On-Demand or for more information check us out at wctv.org

Follow us on Facebook: Wilmington Community Television

History:

'Razor Strop's' business was in ruins, so was his shack

By LARZ F. NEILSON

A hermit known as "Razor Strop Robinson" failed in a somewhat spectacular suicide attempt, 100 years ago in Wilmington.

Robinson, whose real name was Robinson Allen Breed, had lived for several years in a shack in the woods near the old Town Farm, now known as Town Park. In December 1920, he set fire to his shack and then twice attempted to shoot himself. He planned to incinerate himself in the shack.

His attempt did not go as planned. His shotgun had a long barrel, making it impossible to pull the trigger while aiming it at his head. Instead of blowing his brains out, he only gave himself a

scalp wound. A second attempt only resulted in a wound to his side, reported to be not very serious.

At this point, the heat in the shack had become unbearable, forcing him out.

He walked some distance to the Blue Hog piggery, near the Woburn line. When he told workers there what he had done, they called Dr. Bixby in Woburn.

Robinson returned to the site of the shack, which by then was completely destroyed. That is where Dr. Bixby found him. The doctor administered first aid and then drove Robinson to the State Hospital at Tewksbury.

Robinson was reported to be of the Breed family of Lynn, which family gave its name to Breed's Hill in

Charlestown, where the Battle of Bunker Hill was fought. The Breeds were early settlers in Lynn, about 1830.

Robinson had once sold razor strops, used for sharpening straight-edged razors. About 1900, King Gillette introduced a razor with cheap, replaceable blades, and the razor strop went the way of the buggy whip.

Razor Strop Robinson was left with little but his nickname. He took to the woods, first living in Burlington, then in the shack in Wilmington.

The story was reported in the *Boston Globe* on Dec. 30, 1920, saying the fire had been on the afternoon of Dec. 29. The 1920 Town Report, however, logged it as having taken place a week earlier, on Dec. 22.

Baker-Polito Administration awards grants to businesses most impacted by pandemic

BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration announced \$67.4 million in awards to 1,366 additional small businesses in a second round of grants through the COVID-19 Small Business Grant Program administered by the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC). Additionally, the new Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program, also administered by MGCC, is now accepting applications from businesses from sectors most impacted by the COVID-19. Both grant programs are part of a new \$668 million relief package announced last week.

The businesses being notified today of their successful grant application include many that are owned by minorities (50 percent) and women (48 percent). Restaurants and bars, beauty and personal services, health care and retail are among the top sectors receiving relief in this second round of awards. The first round of

grants announced last week totaled nearly \$49 million in support of 1,158 Massachusetts small businesses.

MGCC is continuing to review existing applications and will make awards over the coming weeks to companies that meet demographic and industry preferences. Businesses that have already applied to MGCC's Small Business Grant Program do not need to reapply to the new program.

New Grant Program Accepting Applications

In addition to providing grants to businesses within the existing pool of applications for the Small Business Grant Program, applications are now being accepted for a new Sector-Specific Small Business Relief Grant Program that targets industries experiencing the most significant economic hardship and a loss of revenue. Industries given preference in this new program include:

- Restaurants, bars, cater-

ers, and food trucks

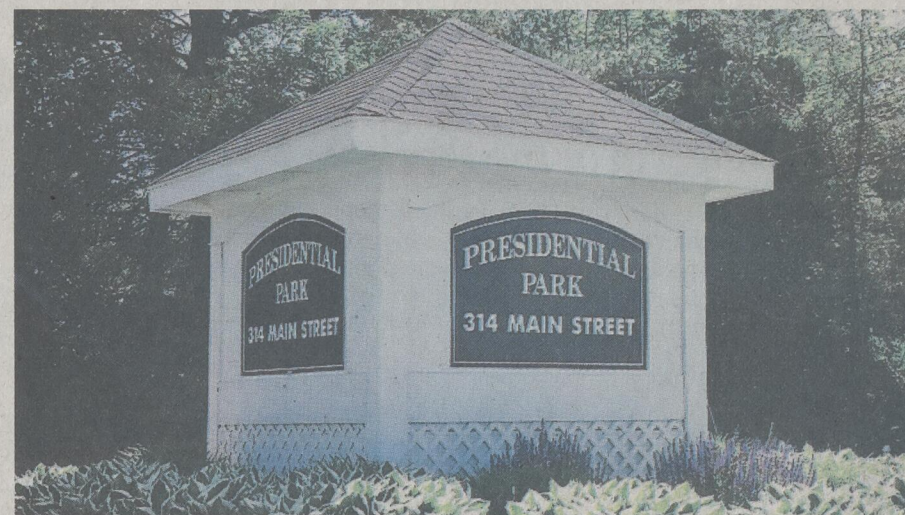
- Indoor recreation and entertainment establishments
- Gyms and fitness centers
- Event-support companies (photographers, videographers, etc.)
- Personal services (nail salons, barbershops, independent pharmacies, etc.)
- Independent retailers

This new business relief program will offer grants up to \$75,000, but not more than three months' operating expenses, to be used for payroll and employee benefit costs, mortgage interest, rent, utilities and interest on other debt obligations.

The online application portal for the new program opened today, and will close on Friday, Jan. 15. Awards are expected to be announced in February.

Program details, application instructions, eligibility and documentation requirements, and more are available at www.empowering-smallbusiness.org.

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Healthy and Happy New Year from **State Representative David Robertson,**
the Tewksbury Food Pantry, and the Wilmington Community Fund

Donation information may be found at:
TewksburyPantry.org
CommFund.org



As we welcome in the new year the challenges and struggles of 2020 are still upon us and we need the generosity of our communities to support the Tewksbury and Wilmington food pantries.

Your monetary gift or donation of non-perishables will go a long way in helping hungry families, veterans, and seniors. Let's continue to remain positive and kind towards one another as we move forward into 2021.



2021

Happy New Year



OPINION

~Recycling Tip of the Week~

Reduce water and energy use by washing in cold water. Hang clothes to dry instead of using the dryer. You'll save money and your clothes will last longer.

Wilmington

Finance Committee vacancy

The Town of Wilmington is accepting applications from interested individuals who would like to volunteer their services as a member of the Finance Committee. Letters of interest, or a

completed application for appointment, may be directed to the Finance Committee Appointing Committee, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, not later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29, 2021.

Alternative care site accepts first patient

LOWELL — The Lowell General Hospital Alternative Care Site (ACS) received its first patient from Lowell General at approximately 1 p.m. Monday and officials expect more admissions in the coming days.

Lowell General officials are reviewing additional patients in their care for possible transfer, and are also in contact with hospitals around the region looking to create more inpatient capacity in anticipation of an expected rise in patients after the holiday season.

The ACS opened its first 14 beds today and has staffing to scale up to as many as 28 beds by the end of the week. The beds will be a regional resource for transfer of recovering patients who need some additional medications or therapies before being discharged to home, opening up inpatient capacity for more severely ill patients.

"We are proud to be able to provide this resource for the region and stand ready to accept additional pa-

tients," said Jody White, President and CEO of Lowell General Hospital and Circle Health. "Patients and families should take comfort that this site is staffed by skilled physicians, nurses and support personnel, and will provide the same standard of care as they would expect in the hospital."

About Lowell General Hospital

Lowell General Hospital is a not-for-profit, community hospital serving the Greater Lowell area and surrounding communities. With two primary campuses located in Lowell, Massachusetts, the hospital offers the latest state-of-the-art technology and a full range of medical and surgical services for patients, from newborns to seniors.

For more information about Lowell General Hospital and its services, visit lowellgeneral.org, follow on Twitter @LGHWELL and Like Lowell General Hospital on Facebook.

Vaccination priority up to health experts

By PAUL J. ANDREWS
andrews@massupt.org
Mass. Ass'n. of School Superintendents
Member of Board of Winchester Hospital

While the vaccines are not only on the way but are here in most of the Town Crier communities, we should first be praising these experts who worked on the vaccine development and distribution. Unfortunately, I am already reading or hearing concerns and complaints about the arrival of insufficient vaccine and secondly the choices for the order of getting the vaccine.

There seems to be widespread support for the health care team members in our hospitals, who work on the front line, to be first but beyond that it seems to get hazy in terms of priority in the minds of some folks, even state officials who make the call.

First, I feel that our national, statewide and community health officials should be making these calls as to how the order will be reached following the vaccination of our medical-based hospital community. Somewhere in the system it seems to indicate the nursing home staff and patients come into the process along with home-care providers of our seniors and their patients.

After that it seems some decisions need to be looked at in terms of local fire and police officials along those members of the educational community who work with staff and students and then the list goes on as planned by

the community health folks in some priority that is agreed to by the decision-makers involved.

What troubles me big time is that we are already seeing some of the sideline folks being critical of decisions that are being made in this priority process when it does not meet a personal need which is absolutely wrong. While objective decisions are always difficult, this must be the case in this life-saving intervention. I am absolutely certain that we will have enough vaccine to get to all.

While some honest dialogue is going on relative to some folks not desiring to obtain the vaccine, one writer in the *Sunday Boston Globe* makes the point that we as citizens should be positive forces to try and stimulate folks of all nationalities to obtain the vaccine for the benefit of all. Obviously this decision is still left to the individual which may still happen over time.

Florida travel decision

Florida trip plans for Town Crier fans seem to be polarized this year including those who headed off to Florida as soon as the holidays passed while there are others who take the total opposite approach and feel that a Florida trip will be off this year because of the pandemic.

Some others are deciding to wait a bit and head down by car after some time passes. For many locals, the trip to Florida is the right of passage from one summer to the next to get over the win-

ter snowstorms up north.

I met one fine Burlington resident who had to get the trip behind her before the holidays to get settled in "Marco" as the natives call Marco Island near Fort Myers. When the topic of the pandemic was raised, the fine local native expressed the positive sentiment that no problems were expected. Another contact traveled up for Thanksgiving, back to Florida after and up again for Christmas to fly back this week.

A third individual with property in Florida decided that they were not going to make the trip this year because of the dreaded pandemic. So Florida and I am sure other warm sites are mixed decision issues this year for the lucky folks.

Some concluding comments and Morning Pulse

As the Christmas season passes towards a new year ahead, we have some comments on the year just passed plus some Morning Pulse extractions. First, a few local area comments include the removal by owners over the weekend of some great holiday displays, the presence at Silver Lake in Wilmington of a large number of walkers and a packed parking lot, many shoppers at the Burlington Mall, a return of patrons to the Wilmington and Tewksbury centers seeing a return to the downtowns.

I have said before in this column that I am so proud of those folks in

the Town Crier communities that have exercised patience and practiced the spacing, masking and vigilance during the horrible months since March. A special salute is sent out to all students who graduated this past June and did so in an admirable way with ceremonies provided by local officials to make certain due honor was demonstrated. We salute the graduates of 2020 for all you have done.

Third, the Morning Pulse extractions include the following: FBI warns scammers are using the pandemic to steal charitable donations; Higher education is under severe stress; More, not always better: High vitamin D doses may increase risk of falls among seniors; Financial literacy is critical for today's kids; Shopping for a home in 2021? Expect inflated home prices; With less travel predicted, "home for the holidays" means something different this year; In a first, Air Force uses artificial intelligence on military jet; Alzheimer's disease: an epidemic in rural America; Hearing loss and High Blood Sugar linked to poorer learning and memory; Many Americans don't think Social Security and Medicare will be there for them; Vermont legislative panel recommends drastic changes in State College system; Nearly 1 in 3 Americans say pandemic has changed retirement age and K-12 schools have been hit hard with cybersecurity breaches this fall with no end in sight.

HAPPY NEW YEAR — andrews@massupt.org

Give blood now and earn a chance to win a trip to Super Bowl LVI

MEDFORD — The American Red Cross and the National Football League are teaming up this January, during National Blood Donor Month, to urge individuals — especially those who have recovered from COVID-19 — to give blood and to help tackle the national convalescent plasma shortage. Right now, more donors are needed to help hospitals.

During this critical time, the Red Cross and NFL are thrilled to offer all those who come to donate an opportunity to receive a special thank you this month. Those who come to donate blood or platelets this January will be automatically entered to win two tickets to next year's Super Bowl LVI in Los Angeles.* In addition, those who come to give Jan. 1-20, will also be automatically entered to win the Big Game at Home package for an awesome viewing experience safely at home, with a 65-inch television and a \$500 gift card to put toward food and fun.**

Individuals can schedule

an appointment to give blood today with the American Red Cross by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, using the Red Cross Blood Donor App, calling 1-800-RED-CROSS or activating the Blood Scheduling Skill for Amazon Alexa.

"Blood and plasma donors who have recovered from COVID-19 may have the power to help critically ill patients currently battling the virus," said Dr. Erin Goodhue, Red Cross medical director of clinical services. "With hospital distributions for convalescent plasma increasing about 250 percent since October, these generous donations are vital in helping to save lives throughout the winter — a time that is often challenging to collect enough blood products for those in need."

As COVID-19 cases have risen across the U.S., so has the need for convalescent plasma — leading to a shortage of this potentially lifesaving blood product. Like "special teams" units on the field, COVID-19 survivors have a unique ability to make a game-changing difference in the

lives of COVID-19 patients. Individuals who have recovered from COVID-19 may have antibodies in their plasma that could provide a patient's immune system the boost it needs to beat the virus.

How those recovered from COVID-19 can help

There are two ways COVID-19 survivors can help — through a convalescent plasma donation or by simply giving whole blood. Plasma from whole blood donations that test positive for COVID-19 antibodies may be used to help COVID-19 patients. Health emergencies don't pause for holidays, game days or a pandemic — blood is needed every two seconds in the U.S. to help patients battling injury and illness.

Blood donation safety precautions

To protect the health and safety of Red Cross staff and donors, individuals who do not feel well or who believe they may be ill with COVID-19 should postpone their donation.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions — including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff — have been implemented to help protect the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive,

in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities (Jan. 5-30, 2021):

ESSEX COUNTY

Andover

- 1/14/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., La Quinta Inns & Suites Boston - Andover, 131 River Rd
- 1/14/2021: 2 - 7 p.m., La Quinta Inns & Suites Boston-Andover, 131 River Rd
- 1/26/2021: 2 - 7 p.m., La Quinta Inns & Suites Boston-Andover, 131 River Rd
- 1/30/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Masonic Lodge, 7 High Street

North Andover

- 1/7/2021: 2 - 7 p.m., North Andover Masonic Lodge, 19 Johnson St

Middlesex County

Tewksbury

- 1/8/2021: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Masonic Hall, 70 Victor Drive
- 1/13/2021: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Masonic Hall, 70 Victor Drive
- 1/21/2021: 1:30 p.m. - 7 p.m., Masonic Hall, 70 Victor Drive

About blood donation

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good

health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

About the American

Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruz.rojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

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All submissions must be accompanied by full name, address, and daytime contact information for verification purposes. Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

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Tewksbury - Wilmington

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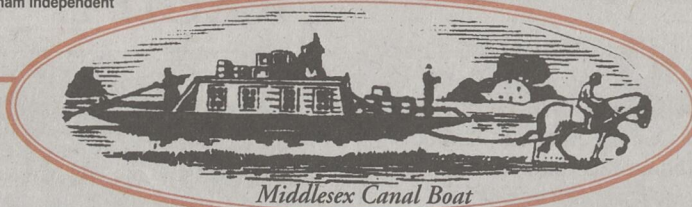
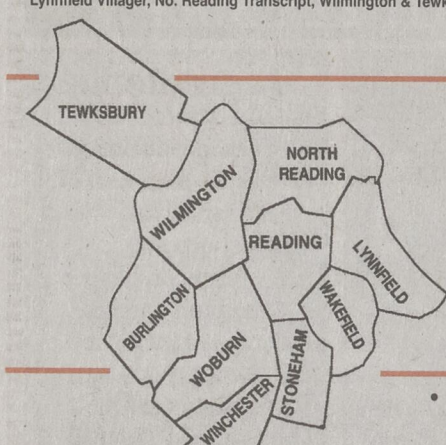
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WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY JANUARY 6, 7, 2021 - PAGE B-1



Middlesex East

A weekly regional section reaching 10 communities

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Local News
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Local People

Bagel World looks to solve traffic issues, double drive-through lanes

BY PAT BLAIS

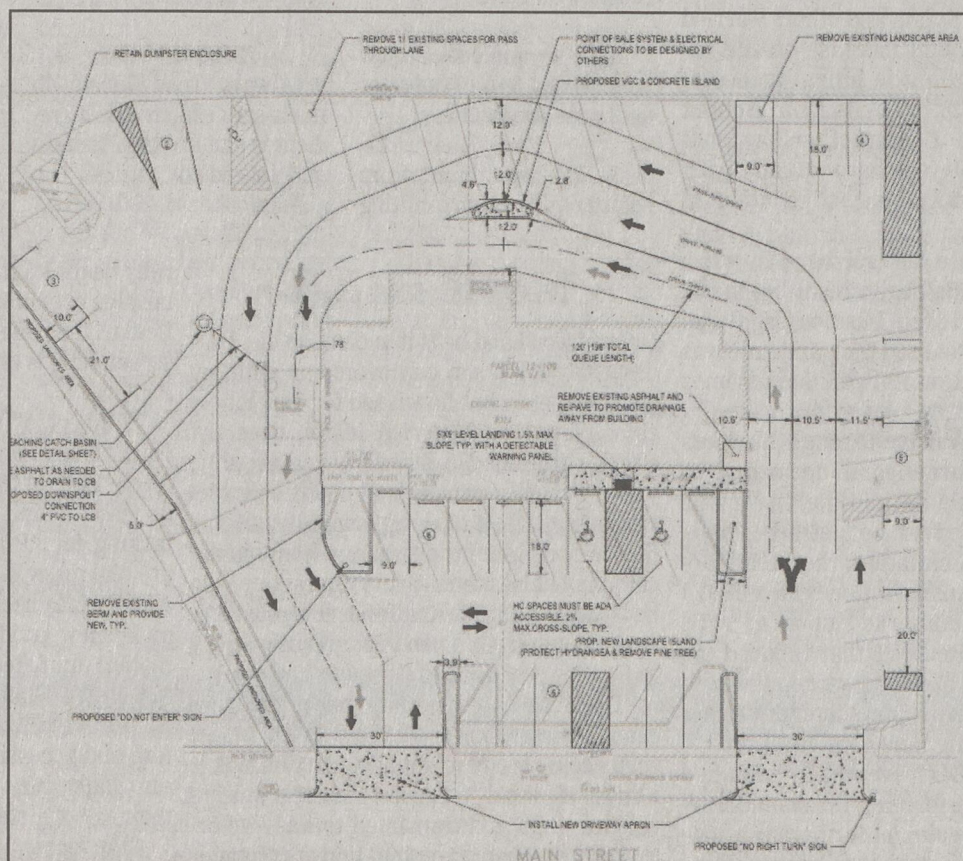
It's a puzzling paradox: Reading's citizenry loves its bagels, but yet the community can't stand the traffic gridlock created on Main Street while obtaining such delightful treats.

Since 1998, Salem resident Maria Kantorosinski and kin have been rolling out their special family dough recipe and dishing out thousands of bagels and breakfast sandwiches from their 4,000 square foot Bagel World shop off of Route 28.

One of three Bagel World locations on the North Shore, the Reading storefront, situated on Main Street by community's downtown area, attracts loyal customers far and wide on a regular basis.

But that success, particularly during Saturday mornings, has also been problematic for town officials and the Reading police force, which has for years now struggled to keep long customer and drive-through queues from backing up and snarling traffic along Main Street.

After drawing the ire last



BAGEL WORLD PROPOSES AN UPDATED TRAFFIC FLOW that would include two drive through lanes and a dedicated entrance from Route 28.

spring of Reading's Select Board, when members vented their frustrations about the traffic while discussing a planned "road diet" or lane reduction along Route 28, Bagel World's owners privately

agreed to consider some changes.

In a parking lot re-arrangement first pitched in late November and revised based upon town officials' commentary, representatives from Salem's Jones

Architecture and Danvers-based Bobrek Engineering and Construction last month suggested cars could be pulled off of Route 28 by doubling up the number of drive-through lanes.

According to civil engineer John Bobrek, whose Danvers firm helped craft the plan with Jones Archi-

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ME Santa to B-2

Bagel TO B-2

Movie Reviews & Box Office News

Review: Italian 'Pinocchio' takes the puppet to its roots

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

The latest cinematic rendering of "Pinocchio," from Italian director Matteo Garrone, is informed not by the friendly 1940 Walt Disney retelling, but the original source material. Carlo Collodi's 1883 novel "The Adventures of Pinocchio" is a much darker affair than the song-filled animated version and Garrone's film is also a more intense experience, even if he too has softened some of Collodi's edges. The result may not be suitable for all children, but it is a strange, visionary and enchanting old-world fairy tale that any fan of Guillermo del Toro's films or Wolfgang Petersen's "The NeverEnding Story" should give a chance.

It's unfortunate though understandable that the Italian film has been dubbed into English for its North American theatrical release, making it slightly annoying for adults but ultimately more accessible to children. The best you can do under these circumstances is to just try to ignore it because, for now, it's the only way you can experience it in the U.S.

Blending realism and fantasy, Garrone's film takes us back to an impoverished Tuscany where Roberto Benigni as Gepetto sculpts a young boy puppet out of an enchanted



GET REAL - Alida Baldari Calabria, left, and Federico Ielapi in a scene from "Pinocchio." This film, released by Roadside Attractions, puts a new spin on a strange, visionary and old-world fairy tale.

(Roadside Attractions via AP)

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Movie TO B-2

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ME Santa from page B-1

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 Margery Bernis, Stoneham \$25.00
 Lauren Preston, Billerica \$100.00
 Joseph & Jacquelyn Wells, Woburn \$50.00
 In Memory of my parents George & Beverly Dwyer and my sister Karen Dwyer Canada from Tricia Dwyer Lawson, Woburn \$30.00
 Richard & Carol Quinno, Woburn \$25.00
 In Memory of Donnie & Sweetpea from The Falzone Family, Wilmington \$25.00
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 Rusty J. Brind'amour, Woburn \$25.00
 Rich & Haley Haggerty, Woburn \$50.00
 In Memory of Judy Kirk, Love Tucker Tom Kirk, Woburn \$25.00

Bagel World

from page B-1

texture project manager Bill Jacob, the fix would entail designating the site's southernmost entrance for entering drive-through traffic only.

In order to create a second 12-foot wide drive-through lane, which would wrap around the existing queues and include a separate ordering board, about 15 of the site's existing 43-parking spaces would be removed.

Most of those spaces would be stripped from the rear of the site, situated furthest away from Main Street. However, that configuration would also allow for the creation of a third bypass lane, which project proponents say will allow walk-in customers to avoid the drive-through queues while departing the business and exiting a second entrance.

"Everybody knows this site backs up onto Main Street and one of the biggest culprits we have is people having to take a right turn out of [the southern entrance] and backing up [all incoming cars]," Jacob, explaining the genesis of the exclusive drive-through entrance, told members of Readings Community Planning and Development Commission (CPDC) last month.

Aimed also at limiting parking lot conflicts between in-store and drive-through customers, the new layout also allows for the separation of a front of parking area from the southern drive-through lane.

Specifically, customers entering the drive-through would be prohibited from accessing the head-on parking spaces along the Main Street side of the building. Meanwhile, those who access and exit the spaces — which would include disabled customers who use handicapped parking spaces — would be encouraged to exit the site through the second exit situated further northbound off of Route 28.

To date, the proposed Bagel World changes are generally being well-received by CPDC members, who are being asked by the petitioner to sanction parking area changes and okay related interior building modifications.

However, while the town officials have little doubt an extra drive-through lane will bolster on-site capacity, some are weary of whether the new configuration will prove too confusing.

Those reviewing the plans are also not convinced that the renovations will be enough to eliminate gridlock during the weekends, when customers are often waiting in lines on Main Street that extend well beyond the property line.

"Without even getting into the layout, you have to look at what's happening to traffic on Saturday morning. The fact that traffic spills out even on a Tuesday just goes to show how difficult it can get," CPDC Chairman John Weston advised the petitioner's engineering and design team.

CPDC member Nicholas Safina, who like Weston questions whether the proposal will be sufficient to pull Saturday backups off Main Street, also challenged Bagel World to consider operational changes to address waiting times for food orders.

"[This plan is all about] stacking more

cars into the drive-through lane. It's like ramps off the highway, and we're not really trying to reduce traffic," said Safina. "You're going to have two order windows, but only one pickup window...Are you accounting for operations inside and how that impacts movement?"

Double trouble

Responding to Safina and others worried that the proposal will increase on-site capacity but do nothing to idling queues of traffic on Route 28, officials from Bobrek Engineering and Construction say that Bagel World employees have already been experimenting with the configuration in real-time.

Specifically, late last spring, just when the COVID-19 crisis began resulting in the closure of many area businesses, Bagel World managers realized the pandemic was putting a big hurt on its walk-in customer base.

Meanwhile it's drive-through business continued to flourish, and according to some town officials at the time, the traffic situation appeared to be getting worse. Complicating the situation, the Mass. Department of Transportation (MassDOT) late last spring embarked upon a "road diet" trial along Route 28 that reduced the four-lane Route 28 into a two-lane undivided highway with wide shoulders and a new middle turning lane configuration.

Though MassDOT eventually modified the layout by transforming the shoulder by the eatery into queuing lane, thereby allowing pass-through motorists to bypass idling cars, the Kantorosinski clan realized the combined effects of the pandemic and road diet necessitated action on their part.

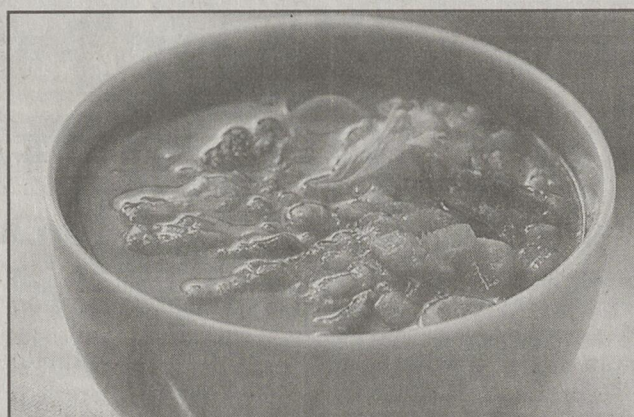
According to Bobrek, thus began the reimposition of a years-long experiment by which family matriarch Maria Kantorosinski would personally stand out in the parking lot and divide drive-through traffic into two separate lanes.

At the same time, the management team also began exploring the purchase of a new point-of-sale system that would utilize technology to help with order management. Part of the current plan includes interior building modifications that will expand upon that concept by reconfiguring the kitchen area to make room for an extra drive-through prep station.

"Bagel World has had extensive onsite research where they manually stacked the site with two lanes. They take orders and shuffle [customers] towards the drive-through window...Bagel World feels this is absolutely the best option for this site," the engineer told town officials during a virtual meeting last month.

"We're in the process of working out a conceptual prep-station layout. So we see this as a two-step process," Jacob later remarked. "You're [cutting back on the wait] by adding a second station. So the idea would be that changes are taking place inside as well."

Bagel World is next scheduled to appear before the CPDC in late January, when the consulting team is expected to forecast how the new layout will effect weekend traffic patterns along Route 28. The petitioner is also being asked to finalize landscaping and signage plans for the site.

**HomeNewsHere
RECIPE**

SUPER BOWL - The classic pairing of mild split peas and rich ham come together in a delicious slow-cooker version of a familiar favorite.

STEPS

1. Mix all ingredients except ham in 4- to 5-quart slow cooker. Add ham.

2. Cover and cook on low heat setting 8 to 10 hours or until peas are tender.

3. Remove ham from cooker; place on cutting

board. Pull meat from bones, using 2 forks; discard bones and skin. Stir ham into soup. Stir well before serving.

EXPERT TIPS

Always read labels to make sure each recipe ingredient is gluten free. Products and ingredient sources can change.

**HEALTHY
SLOW-COOKER
SPLIT PEA SOUP****Ingredients**

- 7 cups water
- 1 package (16 ounces) dried split peas (2-1/4 cups), sorted and rinsed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 3 medium carrots, cut into 1/4-inch slices (1-1/2 cups)
- 2 medium celery stalks, finely chopped (1 cup)
- 1 medium onion, chopped (1/2 cup)
- 1 ham bone, 2 lbs. ham shanks or 2 lbs. smoked pork hocks

Save the leaves from the celery to use for dressing up bowls of this hearty soup.

Split peas are a variety of pea grown specifically for drying. Look for them with the dried beans and lentils in your supermarket.

Movie from page B-1

piece of wood and begs it to come to life. He's desperate for a son and overcome with joy when he gets what he wished for. But Pinocchio, played by Federico Ielapi, does not emerge grateful. He is restless and naughty, which is partly naive and partly mischievousness. It's not too long before his disobedience finds him far away from home in the company of less than savory characters who he is too trusting of. And Pinocchio must embark on a dangerous and epic odyssey to try to find his way back to Geppetto and safety.

This Pinocchio is perhaps one of the more realistic depictions of what a wooden puppet that's come to life might look like. His look is almost identical to Enrico Mazzanti's original drawings and translated to this live-action film through a combination of computer graphics and makeup from Mark Coulier, the Oscar-winning makeup artist behind "The Grand Budapest Hotel." It is a remarkable achievement in special effects.

The production design is equally noteworthy, from Geppetto's workshop to the stunning home of the blue-haired fairy who watches over Pinocchio. Although the natu-

rally beautiful Italian landscapes threaten to upstage a lot of the work. Benigni is also particularly strong in the film, although his screen time is brief and just at the beginning and end.

"Pinocchio" was never my favorite as a child and I'm probably not alone but there is an obvious continuing appeal to the story and its lessons. And although the world was not lacking for "Pinocchio" adaptations, there are still many more to come. Soon we'll have a Robert Zemeckis version with Tom Hanks on Disney+ and a Guillermo del Toro stop-motion animated one on Netflix with Ewan McGregor, Tilda Swinton and Cate Blanchett. Before we're overwhelmed by such starry fare and accessible fare, however, you might also make time for this one too. It has the makings of a stealth classic.

"Pinocchio," a Roadside Attractions release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some disturbing images." Running time: 125 minutes. Three stars out of four.

MPAA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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• **MIDDLESEX EAST SPORTS WEEKLY TRIVIA:** Zdeno Chara has departed for the Washington Capitals, but not before leaving as one of just six players to have played over 1000 regular season games for the Bruins. Try to name as many of the other five that you can?

Answer appears below:

Woburn's Lafferty cracks the lineup as a freshman for Sacred Heart wrestling team

Former Woburn High wrestler JOHN LAFFERTY, now a freshman on the Division 1 Sacred Heart wrestling team, won his wrestle off at 133 pounds and now has the opportunity to represent the Pioneers in their dual meet against VMI in Lexington City, Virginia this Saturday. Lafferty is the first Woburn wrestler to start a Div. 1 college match from Mike Parziale's program at Woburn High.

Sacred Heart is fortunate to have a wrestling season during the coronavirus pandemic. Just four other dual meets are scheduled before the EIWA championships in late February scheduled to be held in Lancaster, PA.

The Pioneers have listed roster of 51 wrestlers, believed to be the most in the country, at the Division 1 level.

At Woburn High, Lafferty won at close to an 80-percent clip (171-45) and was 166-45 without forfeits factored in. His tournament record was 93-35 and his record against strong opponents (wrestlers

with prior post-season paperwork) was 61-37.

"The numbers don't lie," said Parziale. "You see, John had a pretty amazing career finishing with a record of 171-45, which is second all-time in Woburn history for wins."

It was safe to say when Lafferty hit the mat in a Middlesex League dual meet, the Tanners were about to get some team points. He was 28-1 in the Middlesex League over four years.

Lafferty's senior season saw him go 57-3, capped off with a fourth-place finish at the New England tournament at Methuen High.

Reading High winter sports 'cancelled until further notice'

All Reading High winter sports "have been cancelled until further notice," so stated a Reading School District email that went out Thursday, Dec. 30 by Reading School Superintendent John Doherty who also provided an update this morning.

"We have been monitoring the number of school COVID cases for both staff and students since school ended last week. Since December 24th, we have been informed that there have been 21 positive cases, including 8 at RMHS, 2 at Coolidge, 3 at Eaton, 1 at Barrows, 1 at Killam, 2 RISE, and 4 staff. This past week represents 5.6% of all of the cases that we have had since September," Doherty wrote last week.

This past Monday morning the Reading Supt. issued



a follow-up

"Unfortunately, we are seeing an increase in positive cases for students who are participating in sports, not only at the High School level, but at the younger levels as well. At the younger levels, we have seen transmissions from students who are in gymnastics and hockey. At the high school level, we have seen positive cases in all the winter sports, including basketball.

"In terms of sports, we were able to have a modified fall sports schedule, again by successfully using protocols and postponing events when indicated by positive cases or exposures. The winter season has already been more challenging.

"Before hockey even started, there were 4 positive cases, and another 2 cases following the first tryout. On the first day of basketball tryouts there was an exposure to one positive case, and the gymnastics team has had 6 positive cases following exposure on their first day of practice.

"Over the last few days, we have seen additional cases with students who participate

in boys and girls hockey. If we were practicing, we would have most likely had to postpone those practices because students would have been in close contact.

"We have become aware that not all venues have been following the same consistent protocols, and these off-site facilities have put our athletes and their families at risk. Again, we hope that our students recover fully, and that these cases have minimal impact on their families.

"However, there is concern in the medical community that some athletes may have residual health issues such as myocarditis following infection with COVID-19 even if only mildly symptomatic. For this reason, though we hope to resume a winter sports schedule as soon as possible, we must do so taking every precaution."

Athletes and parents staged a rally on the Reading town common this past Sunday in a show of support for the athletic teams. Kids and their parents held signs as cars passed by with many of them honking in support. An estimated crowd of 150 was the biggest turnout for

the one-hour rally.

High school football proposal could have Super Bowl before Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving football in Massachusetts is something that most coaches and old-timers cherish in these parts. However, when it comes to making this game fit in with state-wide playoffs, it can be very challenging. Efforts are underway to try and return the significance of Turkey Day.

Currently, the new playoff format (that was just approved at the end of last year) allows for eight regular-season games and a new 16-team statewide playoff that are held the first three weeks prior to Thanksgiving and the Super Bowls are played the first Saturday in December at Gillette Stadium.

There are now two proposals on the table for the MIAA's Tournament Management Committee to consider next spring.

A group has generated a proposal that would work the calendar so that the Super Bowls would be held the Saturday before Thanksgiving, allowing those teams to play

their full roster in the game. On some occasions, Super Bowl-bound programs have sat their starters on Thanksgiving in preparation for the Super Bowl.

Burlington Athletic Director SHAUN HART helped put together a proposal where just eight teams qualify per division so as to reduce the number of "non-playoff" games from three to two. This allows for the possibility of an extra week before Thanksgiving.

One thing we think we know is Thanksgiving Day games are not going away. But, trying to make everything fit with Turkey Day and playoffs is no easy fix.

Massachusetts will actually attempt to have a season prior to next fall come late February when the Fall II season begins on Monday, Feb. 22 and runs through Sunday, April 25. This likely will call for a seven-game season with the weekend of Friday-Saturday, March 12-13 the expected starting date for games to begin.

Answer to this week's question: Ray Bourque (1518), John Bucyk (1436), Patrice Bergeron (1089), Don Sweeney (1052) and Wayne Cashman (1027) were the others who played over 1000 regular season games with the Bruins.

• **DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?** If you have information about a local athlete that you would like to see appear in this column, please email it to sports@dailytimesinc.com.

• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

9 Belmont Rd was sold to Munro, Patrick R and Munro, Melissa N by Damaso, Sean J and Damaso, Kristen N for \$631,500 on 12/14/20

3-A Cathy Rd was sold to Mershon, John S and Babalas-Mershon, Krystal by Leclerc, Daniel P for \$1,315,000 on 12/14/20

75 Francis Wyman Rd was sold to Sampson, Kelley by Macdonald, Steven R and Macdonald, Sharon A for \$538,000 on 12/14/20

35 Hampden Ave was sold to Yi, Song U and Yi, Jong Y by Scantalides FT Barnes, Maria for \$565,000 on 12/15/20
28 Harriett Ave was sold to Valle, Claude F and Valle, Jean M by Ahmed, Tahar and Vlasata, Marcela for \$601,000 on 12/14/20

22 Hillcrest Rd was sold to Lane, Daniel P by Lane, Richard P and Lane, Mary P for \$350,000 on 12/14/20

33 Lantern Ln was sold to Sacco, Edward J and Sacco, Tracy J by McDonald-Macri, Carol E for \$500,000 on 12/15/20

10 Pleasant St was sold to Tran, Tom V by Mary A Filosa RET and Filosa, Mary A for \$620,000 on 12/15/20

9 Sears St was sold to Crowell, Lynn A and Crowell, Timothy G by Chicarello, James M for \$669,900 on 12/14/20

1 Stephanie St was sold to Kumar, Anup and Gupta, Shalini by Latchford, Stephen J and Latchford, Lindsay C for \$1,007,000 on 12/16/20

22 Wildmere Ave was sold to Patel, Mukeshkumar D and Patel, Arunaben M by Na, Chao and Xie, Danya for \$826,000 on 12/15/20

NORTH READING

7 Greenbriar Dr #306 was sold to Circiello, Monique M by Normandin, Alex F for \$240,000 on 12/15/20

230 Martins Lndg #4206 was sold to Pennelli, Patricia M by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$477,240 on 12/16/20

230 Martins Lndg #4207 was sold to Mustone, Antonio L and Mustone, Incoronata by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$477,035 on 12/16/20

230 Martins Lndg #4213 was sold to Oliver, Terri S by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$484,295 on 12/16/20

230 Martins Lndg #4301 was sold to Gillis-Coppola, Patricia and Coppola, William D Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$487,760 on 12/16/20

230 Martins Lndg #4304 was sold to Moran, Susan A by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$374,510 on 12/15/20

230 Martins Lndg #4307 was sold to Ditrapano, Elizabeth M by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$487,715 on 12/16/20

230 Martins Lndg #4308 was sold to Cunningham FT and Cunningham, John V by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$444,365 on 12/16/20

230 Martins Lndg #4309 was sold to Dahl, Deborah A by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$416,945 on 12/15/20

230 Martins Lndg #4310 was sold to Palumbo, David M by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$448,850 on 12/14/20

230 Martins Lndg #4311 was sold to VanAllen, Deborah J by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$445,835 on 12/15/20

READING

2 Carnation Cir #B was sold to Uttarkar, Amit and Shete, Nilam by Shah, Nikhil Shah, Varsha for \$585,000 on 12/15/20

5 Chute St was sold to Plimsoll Co by 41-49 High Street LLC for \$1,600,000 on 12/15/20

41-49 High St was sold to Plimsoll Co by 41-49 High Street LLC for \$1,600,000 on 12/15/20

95 High St was sold to Teed, Jake and Teed, Meghan by F X Macneil FT and Seabury, Robert M for \$445,000 on 12/16/20

14 Warren Ave was sold to Adamiak, Mark J and Giorgetti, Lisa G by Conklin, Jesse J for \$700,000 on 12/14/20

STONEHAM

159 Franklin St #C4 was sold to Bairos, Krystle by Desai, Bhavik for \$265,000 on 12/15/20

8 Hill St was sold to Liu, Jian by Smolina, Irina and Smolin, Mikhail M for \$660,000 on 12/14/20

426 Main St #108 was sold to Thamma, Renu by Taylor, Justin C and Peterson, Christina A for \$333,000 on 12/15/20

465 Main St was sold to Celli, Craig J by Morgan, Edward N and Morgan, Terri A for \$830,000 on 12/15/20

597 Main St #C11 was sold to Palmisano, Robert by Deagazio, Richard J for \$630,000 on 12/16/20

19 Nixon Ln was sold to Mitchell, Christopher W and Hernandez, Alison G by Corsaro, Brigitta for \$700,000 on 12/15/20

30 Oak St was sold to Shire, Jacqueline and Shire, Lydia B by Zoin, Petar A and Yun, Shuguang for \$525,000 on 12/14/20

73 Summer St was sold to Sheehan, Jody M by Halliday,

James for \$512,000 on 12/15/20

TEWKSBURY

23 Anthony Rd was sold to Jordan, Justin M and Larsen, Sheri M by Dudley, Diane M for \$358,000 on 12/16/20

18 Bemis Cir was sold to Makara, Christopher G and Makara, Jessica J by Gerard, Kevin A and Gerard, Colleen M for \$400,000 on 12/16/20

7 Dirlam Cir was sold to Fula, Joseph by Seven Dirlam Circle RT and Goldberg, Debra A for \$700,000 on 12/16/20

52 Fairway Dr #52 was sold to Schiavo, Bennie P and Schiavo, Joanne M by Castle William J Est and Castle, Frederick A for \$428,000 on 12/15/20

65 Heath St was sold to Shrestha, Praveesh and Shrestha, Sarmila by Ortiz, Edwin G and Ortiz, Claudia M for \$545,000 on 12/15/20

78 James Ave was sold to Falvey, Brendan E and Falvey, Linda B by Lefebvre, Robert G and Lefebvre, Patricia H for \$580,000 on 12/15/20

460 North St was sold to Smith, Gregory E and Smith, Michong by VanHorn, Dolores A for \$340,000 on 12/15/20

117 Patrick Rd was sold to #117 Aluru, John S and Kelangi, Sarah S by Datla, Venkata and Kakarlupudi, Swetha for \$345,750 on 12/15/20

35 Pennacook Rd was sold to DeOliveira, Talmay B by Silva, Arthur C and Silva, Mary F for \$550,000 on 12/16/20

36 Pine St was sold to Lambert, Michael by Leonardo, Michael for \$575,000 on 12/14/20

61 Sawyers Ln was sold to Gogonis, Evan M and Gogonis, Mariah A by Dane, Stephen E and Dane, Carol A for \$860,000 on 12/16/20

WAKEFIELD

288 Albion St was sold to Dupuis, Casey G and Taglienti, Victoria G by Troisi, Christopher M and Siniscalco, Alessandra for \$625,000 on 12/15/20

6 Ames St was sold to Pierce, Christopher by Jennifer M Desimone RET and Desimone, Jennifer M for \$575,000 on 12/16/20

23 Cedar St was sold to Mcmath, Kevin and Scott, Lauren by JDR Prop Development LLC for \$795,000 on 12/14/20

4 Charles St #B was sold to Degraff, Jeffrey and Shott, Chelsea by 706 Main Wakefield LLC for \$760,000 on 12/15/20

56 Chestnut St #3 was sold to Waring, Susan by Huard

Scott D Est and Guttadauro, James T for \$206,000 on 12/15/20

115 Greenwood St #1 was sold to Smith, Christopher M and Matheson, Hannah Collins, Paul for \$371,250 on 12/16/20

115 Greenwood St #2 was sold to Martinez, Severino and Gross, Solana R by Collins, Paul for \$453,700 on 12/16/20

11 Hillcrest Rd was sold to Parker, Jacob and Parker, Adrienne by Yilmaz, Rebecca F and Yilmaz, Mehmet-Ali for \$895,000 on 12/15/20

14 Jefferson Rd was sold to #14 was sold to Walker, Craig J and Pichette, Olivia K by Athens, Michael T and Athens, James L for \$350,000 on 12/14/20

44-A Lake St #2 was sold to Leahy, Keith by Leahy, Courtney and Leahy, Michael for \$320,000 on 12/15/20

706 Main St was sold to Sharma, Gaurav by 706 Main Wakefield LLC for \$759,000 on 12/14/20

25 N Emerson St was sold to Cullen, Matthew F and Cullen, Danielle C by Laberge, Michel J and Diperna, Frances E for \$670,000 on 12/16/20

65 Oak St was sold to Araya, Tewoderos by Alfeo, Jacquelyne D and Alfeo, Russell for \$493,970 on 12/15/20

WILMINGTON

18 Grand St was sold to Frango, Rhoda S and Frango, Joseph L by Nix, Sonia H for \$599,900 on 12/14/20

31 Hensley Way #19 was sold to Ellen M Winokur RET

and Winokur, Ellen M by Spruce Farm LLC for \$609,900 on 12/15/20

12 Industrial Way was sold to BSREP 3 12 Industrial LLC by TAM LLC for \$15,000,000 on 12/16/20

297 Middlesex Ave was sold to Pineo, David J and Pineo, Sharon M by Phillips, Brian C for \$621,000 on 12/14/20

10 Shawsheen Ave was sold to Wildcats Realty LLC by Gronemeyer, Ruth J for \$275,000 on 12/15/20

534 Woburn St was sold to Sullivan, Charlene E and Surette, Matthew by Sullivan, Gregory J and Sullivan, Lisa M for \$513,000 on 12/14/20

770 Woburn St was sold to Halse, Stacey M by Marinho, Fernando J and Marinho, Kelly E for \$544,000 on 12/16/20

WINCHESTER

248 Cross St was sold to Calvin Chung Wei Chau T and Wei-Chau, Calvin C by 89 Morgingside LLC for \$1,229,000 on 12/14/20

8 Hill St was sold to Liu, Jian by Smolina, Irina and Smolin, Mikhail M for \$660,000 on 12/14/20

58 Vine St was sold to Farrow, Phillip R and Pisegna, Jessica M by Lanzon, Karen for \$900,000 on 12/14/20

19 Wedgemere Ave was sold to 19 Wedgemere Avenue LLC by Martyn, Ja J and Martyn, Florence A for \$2,260,000 on 12/14/20

WOBURN

9 Alpena Ave was sold to Grace, Jeremy by Patel, Mukeshkumar D and Patel,

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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY



Tewksbury Police Log

Lowell resident arrested for OUI drugs, texting

Monday, December 28

10:03 a.m. - A 911 caller stated possible domestic at Residences at Tewksbury Commons Tower. Police sent. Officer spoke to all the parties and filed a report.

2:24 p.m. - A 911 caller stated he hit pedestrian at Regina South Drive. Police and ambulance sent. Juvenile, 17, was arrested and charged with assault and battery with dangerous weapon to a person over the age of 60, operation to endanger, and OUI drugs and serious injury.

5:27 p.m. - The caller was chasing her ex-boyfriend on foot out behind Cumberland Farms. She received a phone call from her children stating he was in the apartment when she wasn't there and stole several items. Police sent to search the area. Adam Al-sarabi, 34, of 292 Newbury St. in Boston, was arrested and charged with larceny

from building, larceny of drugs, breaking and entering daytime for felony, and larceny under \$1,200.

8:45 p.m. - Caller reported there was a vehicle driving around the fields at Livingston Street Park, almost across from the football fields. Police sent but gone on arrival.

Tuesday, December 29

2:26 a.m. - A noise complaint and thought it was in the apartment next to her at Fahey Place. Police sent. The neighbors were spoken to.

Wednesday, December 30

6:59 a.m. - Caller at Lancaster Drive stated there was a white male wearing black jacket and black pants looking in to trash barrels. Police sent. They located the male party, ambulance on route for an evaluation. Ambulance off to Saints Hospital.

2:14 p.m. - A 911 caller reported she was being blocked into a parking spot by another vehicle at Market Basket North. Police sent. Calling party called back and state that the vehicle left and she no longer needed assistance. Caller left the scene prior to arrival. Police followed up with the female to confirm no assistance.

3:23 p.m. - A group of men were asking for personal information from her 15-year old daughter at Cracker Barrel Old Country Store. The subjects had left the scene, and she was requesting to speak to an officer. Police sent and filed a report.

10:11 p.m. - Caller reported a vehicle kept driving up and down her street at Astle Street and slamming on their breaks. Police sent but gone on arrival.

Thursday, December 31

10:13 a.m. - Caller stated small white SUV had been parked in the lot for a few hours with someone in the car at VFW Tewksbury Post everyday. Police sent. Party spoken with and he lives in the area and goes there while his wife is zooming calls. All units cleared.

4:53 p.m. - A 911 caller reported a break in to their unit at iStorage. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

5:27 p.m. - Caller reported a vehicle was tailgating her at the police station. Caller would stop at the station to speak with an officer.

10:06 p.m. - Caller reported husband was at Hunan Wok picking up dinner. Business has closed and locked the doors leaving customers without their food. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

Friday, January 1

12:52 a.m. - At Patriot Road, caller reported what they believed was possible domestic violence and noted a female party had appeared to be hit. Caller reported a car had sped off from the house. Police sent. A verbal dispute between two unrelated parties. Police filed a report.

9:13 a.m. - Call for an erratic driver at Dunkin' Donuts who reported she was bumped by a car. Police sent. Both parties spoke to and he would file a report.

10:40 p.m. - Call from a concerned resident at Tennessee Road for red vehicle that was stopped off their street for an extended period of time. Police sent. The party checked out; they just stopped to send a text.

12:02 p.m. - A 911 call from Main Street for a motor vehicle accident. Police sent. Nicole Guarente, 39, of 24 Merrimack St. in Lowell, was arrested and charged with OUI drugs and sending out or reading of electric messages while operating motor vehicle.

Saturday, January 2

8:54 a.m. - A 911 caller stated erratic driver at Shawsheen Street and Old Shawsheen Street. Police sent. Officer spoke to party, driver from insta cart was on the phone. Officer issued verbal warning.

Sunday, January 3

12:51 a.m. - Police stopped a motor vehicle for a warrant at Route 495 and Andover Street. Kristopher Torres, 26, of 59 King St. in Lawrence, was arrested and charged with a warrant.

12:04 p.m. - Caller stated white box truck with engine running for over and hour with no one in it around Jill's Way. Police sent. Officer was calling the company to let them know they needed to move the truck.

12:13 p.m. - Police out with a courtesy booking for Billerica Police Department at Police Headquarters. Frederick Whitehouse, 64, of 10 Balsam Road in Chelmsford, was arrested and charged with criminal harassment.



Wilmington Police Log

Wilmington resident arrested for OUI liquor

Friday, December 25:

12:09 a.m.: A caller reported a wrong-way driver travelling southbound on the northbound side of I-93. State Police caught up with the vehicle in Woburn.

3:26 p.m.: An abandoned 911 call originated from Wightman Road. Upon call back, an ambulance was requested for a party not feeling well. The Fire Department responded.

Saturday, December 26:

2:07 a.m.: Richard Ozong Enoch, 172 Salem St., Malden was apprehended for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license and speeding in violation of special regulation. The responding officer took control of the white 2017 Toyota RAV4.

8:34 a.m.: Patrick Griffin Dooley, 5223 Evergreen

Dr. Wilmington, was arrested due to probation violation.

4:50 p.m.: A caller reported that two friendly dogs were lost near Town Hall on Glen Road. One is a chocolate lab and the other a large white dog. Neither has a tag.

5:33 p.m.: Justine A. Sutton, 14 Mill Rd., Apt #R, was arrested for revoked registration and operation of an uninsured motor vehicle. The vehicle, a gray 2002 Chevrolet Silverado, had its plates seized and was towed to a residence.

10:17 p.m.: A motor vehicle collision involving a gray 2012 Honda Civic SE and a building was reported on Main Street. The Fire Department transported the driver and the building owner requested emergency boardup.

Sunday, December 27:

11:43 a.m.: Smells coming from a basement were reported on Carter Lane. The house was evacuated after the Fire Department responded.

12:04 p.m.: A caller on Brattle Street reported that a male party who has problems with her brother kept driving by in his black 2008 Dodge Ram shouting obscenities and to "leave my wife alone." Advice was given to the caller on how to obtain a harassment prevention order.

Monday, December 28:

7:31 a.m.: A caller reported a male party in a gray 2012 Honda Civic SE with no plates reclining inside while the vehicle was running. The police issued a summons to the driver for operating after revocation/insurance and no registration.

8:25 a.m.: On Shawsheen Avenue a caller found a wallet with a license and money in it and was going to turn it in to the station. The owner of the wallet was notified when it was dropped off and was on their way to retrieve it.

10:37 a.m.: A caller on North Street reported a baby beaver was attempting to get through a chain link fence and that the animal appeared disoriented. The Animal Control Officer responded and the animal, a muskrat, was removed and taken to Rowley Animal Hospital.

Tuesday, December 29:

12:33 p.m.: Responding police reported that an employee at Securitas Security on Concord Street was being disorderly and refusing to leave the property. Though peace was restored, the employee stated he was being writ-

ten up and management was refusing to show him the paperwork and the reason behind the write up

5:07 p.m.: David Loplatto, 7 Fairview St., North Reading was summoned for OUI-Liquor, Second Offense, Reckless Operation of a Motor Vehicle, and Marked Lanes Violation after being involved in a two-vehicle crash at Woburn Street and Federal Street. He was transported to a hospital for evaluation.

Wednesday, December 30:

7:05 a.m.: A deceased rabbit was reported to be in the roadway at Woburn Street and Ox Bow Drive.

1:58 p.m.: A caller reported possibly losing her gray Coach wallet at Market Basket on Main Street on Monday. The station officer advised her of steps to take.

4:37 p.m.: A caller stated he shipped a PS5, reportedly valued at \$1,200, via FedEx that went missing. The station officer spoke with FedEx, who reported that the incident is under investigation and will contact the reporting party. The calling party gave his tracking information.

Thursday, December 31:

2:26 a.m.: Large amounts of trash were found in the parking lot at Savers on Main Street. Police will attempt to make contact in the morning.

4:29 p.m.: A caller reported that Pacific Grove at Lowell Street is over capacity. Police checked the establishment and reported the crowd did not appear too large, but advised the restaurant of COVID protocols and that take-out customers could wait outside if necessary.

10:09 p.m.: William Fredrick Doherty, 86 Mink Run Road, was arrested for OUI-Liquor, Negligent Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Marked Lanes Violation. He was driving a black 2014 Range Rover, reportedly going very slowly, swerving all over the roadway and crossing the double yellow lines. A caller contacted Wilmington 911 and reported the driver took a right onto Hopkins from Billerica.

11:45 p.m.: A caller reported a deer hit the side of her son's vehicle on Main Street, then got up and ran away. She wanted to report in case anyone finds a deceased deer in the area.

PART ONE

SENIOR LIFESTYLES

Special Section

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DEADLINE FEBRUARY 11, 2021

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PART ONE PUBLISHED WEEK OF FEB. 15, 2021

Social Security Tips

Tewksbury's Christmas Tree pickup program

Each street in Tewksbury has a designated day so please consult the following link: <https://www.tewksbury-ma.gov/trash-recycling/pages/branch-leaf-christmas-tree-pickup>

How to Prepare Christmas trees have

to be tinsel and ornament free. Leave curbside before 7 a.m. on your streets pickup day.

Do not use PLASTIC bags - will not be picked up.

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Wildcats have some goals to fulfill

Boys Hockey team returns strong goalies and defensemen, need to replenish up front

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

jamiepote@hotmail.com
WILMINGTON
Heading into Wednesday's season opener with Burlington, the Wilmington High School boys' hockey team will have just two practices under their belts with the entire team present.

Welcome to the COVID-19 abbreviated season where everyday is a challenge!

In a normal season, the 'Cats are challenged game in and game out due to its rigorous schedule, facing some of the best teams in the state coming from the highly competitive Middlesex League. That still stands this year as the 'Cats will play ten games, all against the Freedom Division opponents, starting with the Red Devils, a 14-win squad which competed in the Super-8 tournament a year ago.

"Things are going to be strange," said Scanlon, now entering his 31st season as coach. "We experienced it with several players missing for a while and Burlington has experienced it. It'll go on all winter long. We just practiced the other day for the first time with everyone, so Tuesday we're hoping to have the second practice with everyone and then we open on Wednesday. Burlington is in the same boat. They are just coming off of being shut down so I can't see a big advantage. They have been one of the top teams in the state over the last ten years so we know that they're going to be a handful."

Thus far in the pre-season, Wilmington has had players come and go in practices. Burlington is in the same boat - as they Red Devils were shut down for two weeks. If and when the 'Cats do get a full line-up, and hopefully that starts Wednesday and carries over to Saturday's home opener against the same Burlington Club, Scanlon knows he has a strong defensive core to build around.

"Strength wise will be defensively for us," he said. "We have five returning defensemen and two good goalies, but we're replacing a lot of goals. We lost three kids who scored 10, 11 and 12



The 2021 WHS Boys Hockey team will be led by captain Peter Kourkoutas (middle) and two assistant captains, Matt Pendenza (left) and Chris Bernazani (right). (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

goals each, so that's 33 goals right there. We don't have a proven goal scorer right now so scoring goals will be a wait and see thing."

Last year the Wildcats finished with an overall record of 10-9-3, which included a first round state tournament win over Marblehead before losing to the eventual sectional finalists and former Cape Ann League rival, Triton Regional. In the second half of that season, then junior Sam Cedrone took over as the team's top goalie and played absolutely phenomenal. The year before, then sophomore Alex Fitzler took over the duties in the second half and he also tremendous. He missed all of last year due to a knee injury. He is now healthy and is battling Cedrone for the top spot.

"Cedrone had a great season (for us last year)," said Scanlon. "Fitzler I'm thinking is going to bounce back. In soccer, he

didn't lose a minute to that knee injury, so I think he'll be fine. Right off the bat, we're going to alternate them as they'll each get a game this week. Then see where it goes from there."

The goalies are two of 12 seniors on the team. Four other seniors include assistant captain and defenseman Matt Pendenza, along with CJ Petrie, Anthony Savage and James Kourkoutas. They will be joined by junior Aidan Murphy and fellow junior Matt Vinal, a transfer from Austin Prep.

"Matt was a league all-star last year and he, CJ and James all played significant minutes. Vinal looks to be a solid addition as well," said Scanlon.

With just two practices in hand, Scanlon had no idea what his forward lines would look like at the time this story went to print. He knows that he has four players with var-

city experience returning and two others who have limited experience. Captain Peter Kourkoutas is a big, strong player who can be a physical presence in front of the net. Then scrappy players like assistant captain Chris Bernazani and the Gallucci Twins, Derek and Drew, also return, as does Robert Courtney and Jason Davey, who is back after playing two years ago.

"Davey can play a little bit. He can kill penalties and take a regular shift. He's a senior and he has a good build on him, so he's a pretty rugged player," said Scanlon.

The newcomers include juniors William Alworth, Tristan DiMeco and Nate Packer, as well as sophomores Owen White, Michael Daniels and Nathan Aliberti.

"Mike Daniels is good sized kid and has good skills. Nate Aliberti is a pretty good skilled player. Alworth is a real worker

and DiMeco has good speed," said Scanlon.

Due to the pandemic, there are rule changes and protocols to follow for this season. All players will have to wear masks at all times, the bench areas have been extended to meet social distance protocols, and on the ice, officials will be tasked with separating face-off participants by six feet, as well as disallowing scrums of any more than two players and not to exceed five seconds in duration. A third player attempting to gain control of a puck along the boards or in the corners will draw a whistle.

While all of the new rules will be an adjustment, facing ten real quality opponents certainly won't be an adjustment, since every year the 'Cats face 20. Burlington was 14-6-4 last year, went to the Super-8 and return one of the top goalies in the entire state. Melrose was 11-8-3 and

were slated to return three players who combined to score 49 goals and add 67 assists for 116 points.

Stoneham had eight wins and are led by a real talented sophomore sniper. Wakefield won 11 games and return 14 players, including nine seniors. Then Watertown returns to league play for the first time since the 2016-'17 season after going independent for the last few years. The Red Raiders won 13 games last year and return almost its entire core of players, who are mostly juniors.

"You are playing within your division so you are pretty familiar with the teams," said Scanlon. "Burlington is the cream of the crop. Melrose if they are all back should be good, but I heard rumors that a few of their top players left, so not sure about that. But this should be their year as that core of players are all seniors now."

Wilmington/North Reading Co-Op/Co-Ed Swimming Preview

Sixteen Wild Hornets prepared to make a splash

By HENRY PELMAS
Sports Correspondent

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The North Reading/Wilmington Co-Op Swim Team, the "Wild Hornets" are excited to be starting their season for the 2020-2021 swim season. The team was disappointed to start the season late, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, but are excited to have the opportunity to swim.

The first practice was on Tuesday, December 15, and the team was overjoyed to be returning to the pool, despite facing new challenges with social distancing and mask wearing, including a limitation of only two swimmers in each lane at a time.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the season has been pushed back and the schedule of meets has been cut in

half. Besides the abbreviated schedule, this year's

meets will be "virtual" meaning that the Wild Hornets swimmers will

swim at their home pool, the Reading Burbank YMCA, while their com-

petitors swim at their respective home pool. The coaches will record the

times, and communicate digitally in order to coordinate.

SWIM B8W



The Wilmington/North Reading Co-Op/Co-Ed Swim team opens its season on Thursday with a Virtual Meet against Triton. This year's team has a whopping 16 swimmers from Wilmington. Due to social distance protocols, we split the locals up to two different pictures, this being the first (second to appear in future edition). The group includes from left: Maggie Bourgeois, Olivia Roy, Rachel Repucci, Dylan Tran, Tyler Sheehan, Ethan Ryan, Captain Emma Ryan and Captain Jared Benoit. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

WHS Girls Hockey defeated 8-4 Wildcats and Red Devils provide a lot of offense in season opener

By **DAN ZIMMERMAN**
Sports Correspondent

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WILMINGTON – Due to ongoing COVID-19 safety restrictions, the stands at Ristuccia Memorial Arena were unoccupied for the Wilmington High girl's hockey season-opener last Saturday. Aside from a few scattered rink workers and school officials, the facility was all but deserted.

It's a shame that spectators weren't allowed to make an appearance. What they missed was an offensive free-for-all between Wilmington and Burlington, featuring a dozen goals combined.

At the outset, Burlington held the upper hand, scoring 5 unanswered to take a commanding first-half lead. But while the Wildcats ultimately suffered an 8-4 defeat, they did so with respectability by turning the tables on their opponent during a ten-minute span in the second-half. It was as if someone suddenly flipped the offensive "on" switch.

"Somebody got emotional on the sidelines between the halves," said Wilmington coach John Lapiana, explaining the sudden resurgence of his team. "I also made a number of personnel adjustments that were unexpected. Sometimes, in these trying instances, the distribution of ice time can be an effective motivational tool."

What Wilmington did not have an answer for was Burlington freshman Shea McDonald, a pure sniper who tallied five of her team's eight goals. Shea scored the first of the afternoon a couple of minutes into the game, and the last, to thwart a mini-rally by the Wildcats.

"We talked at length about eliminating clean shots to the net," said Lapiana. "When you're

facing a sniper, there has to be more focus. You have to put your stick on the puck, put your stick on her stick, or put your stick on her glove. You cannot allow clean shots to get to the net."

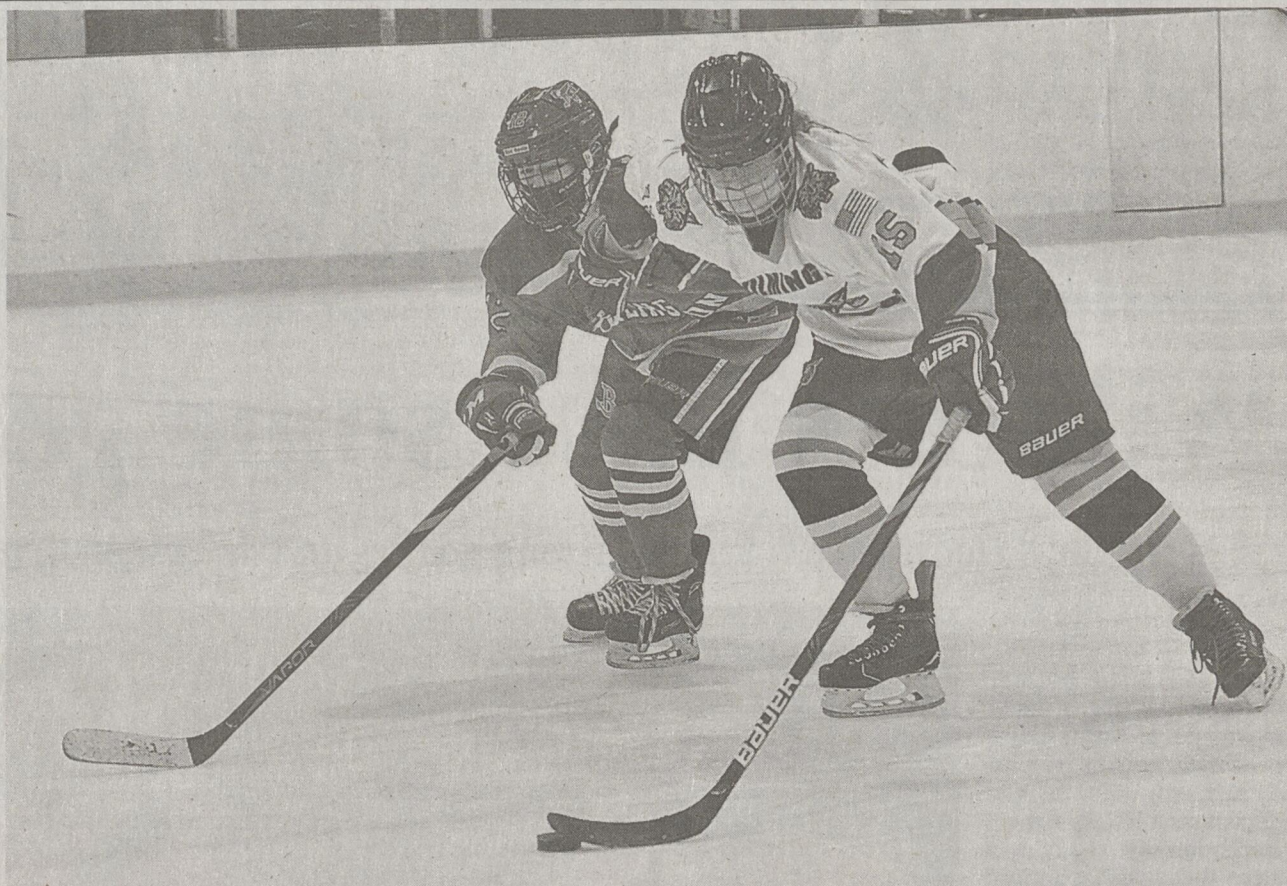
Aside from the lack of an audience, there were a number of subtle Covid-19 differences in the game itself. For instance, instead of three fifteen minute periods, the teams skated through a pair of twenty-two-and-a-half minute segments. In between, the players exited for a brief respite on the bench as a fresh surface was applied. Returning to the ice, the teams did not switch ends.

A couple of minutes into the contest, Burlington's McDonald put her team ahead, 1-0, when she got one too many whacks at a puck in the crease of Wilmington starting netminder Maddie Sainato. The Red Devils' second goal was similar, netted by Alexia Hamilton off a rebound in the high slot. Caitlyn Tremblay soon made it 3-0, with a shoulder-high whister from the circle.

The Wilmington defense was in total disarray, unable to move the puck out with any authority. Burlington was cashing in on chances, and second chances.

"The first thing we talked about today, before they got on the ice, was the importance of reducing opportunities," Lapiana said. "When the puck goes toward our goaltender, we stressed that they must square up and pick up sticks. We had our backs to our goaltender every time she made a save."

Speaking of goalies, Lapiana went with freshman Sainato who, by no fault of her own, yielded on 5 of the 17 first-half shots she faced. After



Above, Wilmington's Sofia Brunetto keeps the puck away from Burlington's Abigail Sousa and below, Sousa and Wilmington's Ashley Mercier both chase a loose puck during Saturday's contest played at the Ristuccia Arena. (photos by JoeBrownphotos.com).



Burlington added another pair of goals in the second-half, Lapiana sent in reliever Megan Mullarky, who turned aside 8, including 4 bids during a Red Devils power play.

Trailing 6-0 with 18-minutes remaining in the game, the Wildcats snapped out of their slumber and got on the board with a goal from sophomore Katelin Halley. Skating hard along the right wing as part of a two-on-one break with

Toni Brunetto, Halley stick-handled and released, beating Burlington goalie Colleen McMakin glove side. Amanda Mercier also earned a helper.

Burlington's Hamilton quieted the Wilmington celebrants with her team's seventh goal, although briefly. Roughly two-minutes later, Halley was back for more, reducing the deficit to 7-2 with a nice flip between the goalie's wickets. Gabby

Daniels, who came on strong at the tail end of last year's campaign, was awarded an assist on Halley's second.

The Wildcats capitalized on their only power play, with Zoe DeRose finishing off an impressive passing sequence between Ida Bishop and Kiley Flynn.

The Red Devil menace, McDonald, added her fifth in the waning moments but Wilmington would have the last say, as freshman newcomer Lily

MacKenzie combined with Bishop and DeRose for a late goal.

"We weren't ready today and we didn't work hard enough, plain and simple," said Lapiana, who visited Burlington last night for a rematch (results in after press time). "We won the second half. If we didn't sleepwalk through that first half, there might have been an entirely different result today."

Looking Back at Legendary WHS Coaches

Mike Pimental, a Hall of Fame person and (hopefully) Hall of Fame Coach

Last week, the Town Crier started a 15-part series on legendary coaches at WHS, while several from Shawsheen Tech will be included. The series started with Hall of Famer Evelyn Wells Carter, who coached the field hockey and girls' basketball teams in the late 1930s and early 1940s. Below is a look at former wrestling coach Mike Pimental, who coached from 1994 to 2013.

By **JAMIE POTE**
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON – In last week's first story on legendary coaches, we said that there's 18 coaches inducted into the Wilmington High School Athletic Hall of Fame. One hundred percent, all 18 of them are indeed Hall of Famers, but there's also several who in this writer's opinion, should be also inducted, starting with former wrestling coach Mike Pimental.

Pimental came to WHS in 1994 and was the third coach in the program's history, following Mike Nee of 14 years and Tommy Aylward of one year. Five years before he took the job here, Pimental was a state wrestling champion at Mt. Anthony High School in Vermont. He then went on to compete at Springfield College.

He arrived at WHS at the young age of 25 and took over a program that was in complete disarray. The numbers were low,

the overall attitude and reputation of the program was not strong. Over 19 years, Pimental completely turned that around as Wilmington was regarded as one of the top programs in Division 3 year-after-year.

Before Pimental came on to the scene, the program only had a few winning seasons, while no team in program history had ever won a sectional title, or even a tournament title of any kind. No individual had won more than a sectional title. Quickly all of that changed with Pimental calling the shots.

He implemented simple standards – simple, yet extremely important team rules: everyone had to be a gentleman on and off the mat, which included showing the most utmost respect for every opposing team, opposing wrestler, own teammates and coaches, and certainly with former wrestling coach Mike Pimental.

If you wrestled for Pimental, you had to have a work ethic – a superior one, because he not only knew the sport of wrestling in and out, but he knew how to teach it and how to get the very best out of each and every student-athlete, whether it be at a New England Championship match, a Cape Ann League match, a JV match, or just a typical practice. He was a disciplinarian for sure, but not a drill instructor type. His style was more like a math equation:

work ethic and discipline equals improvement and development, which turns into self confidence, self motivation and then over time victories.

Valley and the Cape Ann League. He is the winningest coach in program history, surpassing Nee who had just over 100 wins, while current coach



For 19 years, Mike Pimental served as the WHS Wrestling coach, winning 192 matches, while coaching one all-state champion, seven state champions, ten sectional winners, 19 Cape Ann League Champions, and the first and only D3 North Sectional team Championship title coming in 2003. (file photo).

On top of that he had fun when he coached. Mike's fun-loving personality certainly was contagious to those around him – including his great pal Peter Mitchell, the long-time assistant coach, who also is a top notch person and coach.

Through his 19 years as coach, Pimental had an overall record of 192-158-5, which included records from both the Merrimack

Joel McKenna has 69.

Before Pimental coached, only three individual WHS wrestlers (one twice) had won sectional titles. During his 19 years, Pimental coached seven individuals to an individual state championship title including Billy Tate, Pat Heffernan, Marc Sollazzo, the late Hall of Famer Derek Hanley (twice), Roman Walsh, Steve Sughrue and

Kenny Joyce. Hanley became the only all-state champion in the history of the program.

In addition, Pimental coached ten different individuals to a sectional championship title, and also the 2003 team to its first and only D3 North Sectional team title in program history. Pimental coached 19 individuals to Cape Ann League individual championship titles, and also had four wrestlers place at the New England, including a fifth place by Tate in 1997, a fifth and a second by Hanley in 2002 and '03 and then a third by Walsh, also on '03.

In his first two seasons as coach, the Wildcats had four wins in each season and then nine of the next ten years, the team had winning records including win totals of 12, 12, 13, a program record 17, 12 and 16 wins over six consecutive years.

"Anything I have done in coaching has been taken from him. He has made me a better person, better coach and a better husband for that matter. I really can't go into enough detail of just how much he has helped me throughout the years," said McKenna back in 2013 when he was named Pimental's replacement.

In 2001, Pimental was named the Town Crier's Coach of the Year. That season was just the beginning of the tremendous success over the next decade. The Wildcats finished 12-7-1 overall,

including 7-1 in the Cape Ann League, good for second place to North Andover, who defeated the 'Cats by 16 points in a tough dual meet.

On top of that, Wilmington made program history at the time by winning the Georgetown Invitational tournament, with Sollazzo becoming the first champion at the prestigious Mount Anthony Tournament, by crowning three CAL Champions, by finishing second at the D3 North Sectionals and then finishing sixth at the D3 state meet. Pimental was named the D3 North Sectional Coach of the Year.

That season ended in March and later that calendar year in December, he deservedly so was named the Town Crier's Coach of the Year and he had one great line from that story which sums up everything you need to know about this future Wilmington High School Hall of Fame Coach.

"Someone told me the other day that when I was going to practice, I looked like a little kid at Christmas. To me coaching is better than Christmas. I have forty kids showing up to practice every single day to work hard, and who have the same interests and goals in the sport of wrestling that I have. And I have these kids for three months. That's better than Christmas which is just one day."

Former Brooks Star, now at Cushing Academy

Stillings enjoying his hockey journey from player to coach

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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ASHBURNHAM/WILMINGTON - Back in 2011, the Town Crier did a story on four Wilmington residents, who were No. 1 goalies for four different high school hockey programs which included Tyler Stillings at Brooks Academy, which plays in arguably the toughest conference in all of New England.

Stillings was a three-year starter for Brooks, who during his senior year had 40 saves in a huge performance against St. Sebastian's.

Since those days, his hockey journey has taken him to several places, including playing Jr. Hockey for a year and then being a member of the Assumption College Men's team.

From there he got into teaching and coaching, first in Pennsylvania and now the last four on the Cushing Academy Boys Hockey Coaching Staff. He was first the assistant coach on the Varsity B Team, before becoming its head coach. He got promoted again and is currently the full-time assistant coach of the Varsity team.

In addition he is the JV Boys Lacrosse coach, and teaches five history courses to freshmen and sophomores.

"I love coaching at Cushing," said Stillings. "The players are so good. Every year we have between five to ten Division 1 (college) commits. Scouts from the National Hockey League go to our games and the kids have a beautiful locker room. The kids I coach are better players than I was. (Head) Coach (Steve) Jacobs was a football player at UMass and has really become a

friend and mentor to me. He has shown me you don't have to play in the NHL to be a great coach, just care about the players and work hard."

Jacobs said that adding Stillings to his staff has been nothing short of a blessing.

"Tyler is a passionate, enthusiastic and supportive coach. His thirst for learning is unmatched. His love for teaching is one of the traits that makes him a strong coach," said Jacobs. "Tyler is a humble and grateful coach who understands that it is a privilege to coach and he leads by example with energy, character and integrity. He is enthusiastic, supportive, motivating and effective. He displays a strong work ethic and positive attitude every single day no matter what the circumstances."

"He has meant a great deal to our program as a goalie coach with an in depth knowledge of the position, preparedness and ability to inspire our players. He also has contributed as a head coach of our strong developmental team with strong mentoring skills and his desire to help his players succeed."

"We are lucky to have such a strong young coach in our program. A sponge for learning who communicates optimism Tyler is destined for a successful career as a competent coach with the willingness to do whatever it takes."

The journey for Stillings all started here in Wilmington as a little kid. "I grew up playing Wilmington youth hockey and then for the Valley Jr. Warriors and Lowell Riverhawks. Then I went from Brooks where I was starting goalie for three years. I loved Prep School

and the opportunities it gave me. I faced a lot of shots in Prep School Hockey and did well putting up some good stats like save percentage. One season I came in second for total saves in all of New England."

"After graduating from Brooks I didn't have great college options. So I then had to play one year of Junior Hockey for the New England Wolves. My coach, there was the legendary Steve Jacobs who had a 20-plus year tenure at Cushing and left to pursue other opportunities. He ended up founding the Wolves before deciding to return to Cushing to coach again in 2018."

During his time at Assumption, Stillings - the grandson of longtime WHS teacher, coach and sports administrator Bob Dicey - didn't play as much as he would have liked, but more importantly gained a great education, and had a wonderful four-year experience.

"I had a great time playing juniors and committed to Division-2 Assumption and went on to play four years there. Our team wasn't great but we got better over time. The other goalies on the team were very good. I had a bad ankle injury my freshmen year and I served mostly as a backup only getting a handful of starts. I loved Assumption College and my experience. I received the coaches award from the athletic department. It's a great school with a small campus and great education. I majored in history with a minor in English. It's also where I met my wife, Kristen."

At first, Stillings had a tough time trying to land a job. He wanted to work in boarding/prep schools, but couldn't land anything in the New England area.



Wilmington native Tyler Stillings, with his wife Kristen and their dog Zeke, is in his fourth season as an assistant hockey coach at Cushing Academy. (courtesy photos).



He had interviews in other places, including Indiana.

"At the last second before graduation, I got a job at an all-boys boarding school forty minutes outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania called

Kiski. It was not a great hockey school - more of a lacrosse, basketball, and football school. It's a very old school - shirt and tie, discipline. It was a great experience though. The kids were mature and co-workers were great. I

taught three history classes, an English class and helped supervise a dorm. I was the assistant hockey coach and was also the JV Boys soccer and lacrosse coach."

He quickly realized that

STILLINGS B12W



Herb Chambers



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Outcome of girls basketball season opener determined in final seconds

Burlington nets game winner in dramatic fashion

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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WILMINGTON - The bad news for the Wilmington High Girls Basketball team in Saturday afternoon's 30-28 season opening loss to Middlesex League rival Burlington was that a slow start ultimately doomed them to defeat. The rust of a long layoff and very limited practice time was clearly evident throughout the first half of the game when the Wildcats scored a total of ten points.

The good news, however, for the Wildcats was that they seemed to find their game in the second half, literally showing improvement as the game progressed, nearly completing a spectacular comeback before coming up just short when Burlington hit the game winning shot with just three seconds remaining.

The loss stung, but considering the fact that the Wildcats entered the game with just one week of practice under their belts after all Wilmington sports were shut down for a week during the preseason, the Wildcats strong finish offered plenty of hope for the remainder of the season.

"It was kind of what I expected, with this being only week in, with limited practice time," Wilmington coach Jessica Robinson said of the team's slow start. "I kind of expected the game to start that way. But the girls fought hard. They ignored the deficit and fought through it to catch up, which is a huge credit to them."

With the way the game started, it would have been impossible to predict the nail biter finish that lay ahead. The Wildcats, playing in an empty gym with no spectators, simply could not find the basket in the first quarter, as they were held without a field goal through the

entire quarter (and most of the second).

Wilmington trailed 13-6 after the first eight minutes, staying in the game thanks to four points from the free throw line from senior Kylie DuCharme and two from fellow senior Jenna Sweeney.

Both teams struggled to get their offense going in the second quarter, with Burlington doing just enough to extend their lead to ten points at 16-6 with 3:05 left in the half, and when DuCharme headed to the bench with three fouls with 2:39 left in the half, things looked bleak for the Wildcats.

But with 1:10 left in the half, junior Jess Collins (six points) hit the first field goal of the game for the Wildcats after grabbing a rebound, before Sweeney scored moments later on a drive to the hoop to make score 16-10 with 35 seconds left.

It looked like that's how the teams would go to the half, but a basket by Burlington at the buzzer made it 18-10 at the break. In reality, to the naked eye, it appeared that the Burlington player did not get the shot off until after the buzzer sounded, but the basket stood and the halftime deficit was eight points for the Wildcats.

"You can't go back in time," Robinson said. "I do wish we had review like the NCAA, but unfortunately sometimes the ball bounces your way and sometimes it doesn't. Whether it was a missed call or not, we can't change that."

Wilmington began their comeback early in the third quarter on an early basket by Sweeney (seven points), but Burlington remained in control with a 21-13 lead with 3:22 left in the quarter, before the Wildcats scored six straight points on baskets by Collins, DuCharme and Sweeney to pull within 21-19 and trail just 22-19 entering the fourth quarter.

Burlington once again extended their lead early in the fourth quarter, taking a 26-20 advantage with 5:46 left before the Wildcats once again scored six in a row tie the game at 26-26 with 1:58 left on a basket by Olivia Spizuoco. The Wildcats run had started when DuCharme (11 points), headed to the line and missed a pair of free throws, but grabbed her own rebound and scored to make the score 26-22 at the time.

Trailing 28-26 with the clock winding down, the Wildcats came up with a huge play with 11.6 seconds left in the game in a spectacular sequence. DuCharme tipped a Burlington pass and Spizuoco came up with a steal before feeding DuCharme for the game tying basket.

"That was a great read by Olivia and Kylie had great timing on our press, and they made a great play," Robinson said. "That's what we want to come away with when we do press, so they did a great job of executing the press on that possession."

Burlington however, would break the Wildcats hearts on a short jumper by Megan Murphy with three seconds left in the game. A desperation heave by the Wildcats at the buzzer came up short, and Wilmington was left to prepare for this week-end's rematch with the Red Devils in Burlington.

Robinson feels like her team will be ready for that rematch and continue to improve as the season continues, as she was particularly encouraged by her team's efforts after the tough start.

"Especially with such limited time together as a team, it would have been a lot easier to just say, well this is our first game, let's give in, but they fought the whole way," Robinson said. "Reflecting back on my performance, there are



Above, Wilmington High senior Kiara Nadeau keeps a close eye on Burlington's Syd Pavao (21) with Kylie DuCharme (rear) in on the play and below, Wilmington's Alexa Kelley keeps the ball inbound under the eye of head coach Jessica Robinson, during Saturday's season and home opener. (photos by JoeBrownphotos.com).



things I wish I had done better. I am not in basketball shape yet either.

"As we go on, we will

look to correct some of the mistakes from today. We are excited that we get

to play, and we are going

to go out next week and try and correct some of the things that went awry today."

Mallinson nets 23 as 'Cats hang with a strong Red Devils team

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com

BURLINGTON - After posting a 2-16 record last season, the Wilmington High Boys Basketball team was looking to take a step towards turning things around in their season opener on the road at Burlington High School on Saturday afternoon.

In many ways the Wildcats did just that, playing very well against the defending Middlesex Freedom Division champions. But unfortunately for the Wildcats, despite their best efforts, they came out on the short end of a 68-55 final after leading at halftime and trailing by just three points after the third quarter.

The Wildcats, who led 29-27 at the half, got a game high 23 points from junior Tommy Mallinson, while Jimmy McCarron added ten points and nine rebounds in the loss. While they came up short of picking up the victory, Wilmington coach Dennis Ingram was happy with what he saw from his team and is looking forward to better days ahead.

"It was great, like there was a different energy from the moment we stepped into the gym," Ingram said. "We had talked about it before the game, about being the aggressor at the start of the game and they did it. They walked into the gym feeling like they would win the game and that is the kind of confidence we want to have."

That confidence carried the Wildcats through the first 16 minutes of the

game, as they led at the end of the first quarter and then held a 29-27 lead at the break, but in the end they could not hold off the talented Red Devils. The lack of practice time and the fact that they are still working themselves into basketball shape may have come back to haunt the Wildcats who have only really been practicing for a week, while most schools, like Burlington have been at it for at least two.

"Obviously the game got away from us a little bit," Ingram said. "It may have been conditioning, with only one week of practice. But Burlington is a very good team. They won the league last year, but our guys felt like they could win and they played really well."

The teams would play fairly evenly in the third quarter, with Burlington holding a slim 45-42 lead heading into the final eight minutes, but the Red Devils pulled away in the fourth quarter, outscoring the Wildcats 23-13 in the final frame, doing a lot of their damage at the free throw line down the stretch when the Wildcats were forced to foul.

Despite the loss, the Wildcats go a typically strong performance from Mallinson, who after being selected as a league all-star last season, is looking for even better things this year despite having a target on his back. So far so good for the junior, who had three 3-pointers among his 23 points.

"Last season after every game, coaches talk about

how Tommy snuck up on them, because they didn't realize how good he was," Ingram said. "This season, everybody knows who he is, and that he is the one to stop. Burlington had someone in his jersey all game, but he still had a great game. He is efficient and he knows how to score."

McCarron also had a strong game for the Wildcats and Ingram says that it was a well deserved strong effort.

"Jimmy has been working on his game all off season," Ingram said. "He has really turned into Mr. Consistency for us. He can be a consistent double double guy for us. He works so hard at his game, and he just keeps getting better."

While there is still some work to be done if the Wildcats are going to start to win more consistently, Ingram is confident that his team will be even better this weekend when they host the Red Devils at Wilmington High.

"We have to play well for the full 32 minutes if we are going to win. They just played better than us and made more plays than we did," Ingram said.

"But to be up two at the half, and to go to the wire with a really good Burlington team is a credit to our guys. I already heard them talking after the game about how they can't wait to play them again this weekend, so hopefully we come out and play well for the whole 32 minutes."

Sixteen Wild Hornets ready to make a splash

FROM B5W

dinate which team has won the meet.

Disappointingly, there will be no spectators allowed at meets, however the swimmers hope to still prove their competitive strength even without the usual support of family and friends.

The teams first virtual meet will be against Triton, and will take place on January 7th.

"We have some great talent joining the team, especially thanks to skilled freshman swimmers like Dat Tran, Rachel Repucci, and Lauren Feffer," said head coach Sue Hunter. "I'm also hoping to see some impressive results from our seniors and captains, despite the different look for the season."

The girls team is coming off an exciting 5-1-2 overall record and second place finish at the Cape Ann League Championship Meet.

Leading the girls this year will be senior captain Emma Ryan of Wilmington, along with Oli Grabar and Kristina Valenti from North Reading.

The other seniors include newcomer Maggie Bourgeois of Wilmington and North Reading residents Brianna Saunders-Correa and Erin Davis.

The other Wilmington residents on the girls team includes junior Anna Germano, sophomores Shae Fitzgerald, Olivia Roy, Julia Kane and Lindsey Kane, and freshmen Kayla Kelly and Avis Samaha.

At last year's CAL Championship Meet, both Kane and Fitzgerald were extremely competitive and busy. Kane finished 10th in both the 50-freestyle and 100-backstroke, and she joined Fitzgerald as part of the 7th place 200-freestyle relay team. Fitzgerald was also 13th in the backstroke and 16th in the 500-freestyle.

The other members of this year's team includes North Reading juniors Kelly Crossan, Nicole Steinmeyer, Melanie Feffer, Caroline Schaldenhaffen, and Kiera Lord who all return from last season.

Also returning include sophomores Elise Higgins and Maddie Koenig, while freshman Lauren Feffer is a newcomer. All three of those girls reside in North Reading.

Turning to the boys team, this group is coming off a successful season as well, which included a fifth place finish at the league meet. This year's team will be led by captains Jared Benoit of Wilmington, as well as Christopher Mangano and Henry Pelmas of North Reading.

The other Wilmington residents on the team include sophomores Dylan Tran, Ethan Ryan, Tyler Sheehan and Dat Tran, as well as freshmen Nick Samaha, and Jameson Burns.

At last year's CAL Championship Meet, Benoit and Ryan had terrific days. They were both part of the fifth place 200-medley relay team, while Benoit grabbed a sixth place in the 100-breaststroke, a 7th place in the 100-free and was also a part of the 400-freestyle relay. Ryan was also second in both the 200-IM and 200 Breaststroke.

Dylan Tran competed in the 100-free and finished 16th.

North Reading resident Jonathan Mangano, a junior, returns to the line-up.

The members of the team feel optimistic leading up to their first meet, and the girls team in particular hopes to build upon their momentum from last season, and hope to prove themselves to still be the strong, competitive team the Cape Ann League saw last year, as many of the team's strongest swimmers are returning this season.

On the boys side, low numbers will make it difficult to compete for the CAL title, but the boys are committed to working hard during practice, and will continue to put in effort to improve their times throughout the season, despite the unfortunate circumstances.

Behind many local players, Rams want fourth straight league title

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

BILLERICA - Over the past few seasons, the Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team has re-established themselves as the dominant force in the Commonwealth Athletic Conference. Last season was no exception, as the Rams powered their way to a 14-7-1 overall record and an 8-1-1 mark in the CAC to win their third straight league title under the direction of longtime coach Chuck Baker.

The Rams also picked up a win over Latin Academy in the quarterfinals of the Division 3 North Tournament, before being eliminated by a powerhouse Cambridge team in the semi-finals. For Baker and the Rams, as accustomed as they have come to winning league titles over the years, the accomplishment never gets old, nor does competing in the state tournament.

"We are always happy winning the league title and making the tournament," Baker said. "We want to win them all, but to be honest Cambridge was a talented team and out played us. At the end of the day, I was proud of the team advancing to the north semis."

While there is no state tournament to qualify for this season due to the pandemic, the Rams will still be competing for a fourth straight CAC crown. That task, however, got a lot more difficult this season with the loss of a lot of the Rams offensive firepower from last season, as they lost several key players to graduation.

Among the players the Rams were forced to say goodbye to were JJ Thibert and captain Dan McGaffigan of Wilmington, along with Nate Silva and Brady McFadden of Tewksbury. Silva and Thibert were the Rams top two scorers last season with Silva leading the way with 31 goals and 20 assists, while Thibert had 20 goals and

15 assists. Overall, the Rams lost 101 points with this foursome.

"It is obviously tough to replace, but there were some kids in the program from last season that have worked hard to step up and the freshmen class has some talent in it," Baker said. "We will be ready to compete."

They will be ready to compete in large part thanks to the efforts of returning players like seniors Anthony Papa (10 goals, 11 assists, 21 points), Sean Murphy of Tewksbury (8-14-22) and sophomore Brady Darcy (8-7-15) among others.

"I expect those three to step up and work to be the best ones on the ice," Baker said. "All three can play as they proved last season. I hope and expect that they take it to another level this season, especially the seniors."

The Rams will also be looking for some offensive punch from senior Aidan Sullivan as well as sophomore Nick Calouro of Tewksbury, while defensively they will be led by senior DJ Ducharme (3-7-10) and Jonah Varallo (1-5-6), along with juniors Ryan Dusablon (2-3-5) of Wilmington and Tom Sampson (3-2-5).

The Rams will also have to replace their last line of defense, having lost three-year starter Kam Neault of Tewksbury. Fortunately for the Rams, goalie might be their deepest position with senior Jared Palmer of Tewksbury and junior Tom Dalton of Wilmington the leading candidates to replace Neault, but they are not alone.

"Those two are battling hard at this point," Baker said. "We've also got a sophomore transfer, Aidan MacLeod and he is doing a great job as well. Junior Joe McLaren (Wilmington) has been out, but he was looking good as well through try-outs."

As Baker mentioned, the Rams have a talented freshman class this, offer-



Above are four of the ten Wilmington residents who are members of this year's Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team and they include from left, Aydan Churchill, Mike DeRose, Kevin Ackerly and Matt DiZoglio; And below are six more Wilmington residents including front row from left, Joe McLaren, Colin Lawson and Liam Milne; and back row from left, Ryan Dusablon, goalie Tom Dalton and Keenan Considine. (photos by JoeBrownphotos.com).



The Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team includes six players who reside from Tewksbury, including front row from left, Nick Calouro, Roland Spengler and Derek Nazzaro; and back row from left, Sean Murphy, goalie Jared Palmer and Conor Preble. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

ing hope for not only this season, but the future as well, including forwards Chase Darcey, Kyle Gray, Liam Milne, Rolland Spengler and Keenan Considine, along with first year defensemen Colin Lawson, and Mike DeRose. They will be joined by junior forward

Quinn Fallon, sophomore forward Matt DiZoglio and sophomore defenseman Kevin Ackerly.

One of the Rams primary challengers for the CAC title on a yearly basis, Rockport, will not be competing in the CAC this season, but Baker knows there is still plenty

of competition for the league crown.

"Rockport is playing a Cape Ann League schedule due to Covid stuff," Baker said. "Probably Essex and Northeast will be the other top teams in the league, but I never underestimate any of them. I am not sure if

there will be a true league title. But these kids need to want to compete. The seniors because this is pretty much the end and the others, next year is a new year, so look to improve and open some eyes for the future seasons."

Experienced players hoping to lead Rams to a better season

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

BILLERICA - After a winless season the year before, the Shawsheen Tech/Bedford Co-Op Girls Hockey team began to make some progress last season, going 2-14 on the season, while also being

much more competitive in several games than they had been in recent years.

With a new season set to begin, the Rams will be looking to take another step forward, albeit in an abbreviated season, with just ten games on the docket. With several key players returning from

last year's squad, the Rams look well positioned to take that next step, although they will have to do so against a very talented independent schedule.

"I definitely think the kids got some good experience last season and that should help them this

season," Shawsheen coach Bob Roach said. "We will be looking to compete in every game."

Leading the way for the Rams once again this season will be senior captain and center Emily Sartori. Sartori enters her fourth season with the Rams and returns for her second

season as captain, which Roach believes will be a key to his team's success.

"Emily brings great experience to the team and should be a great team leader for us," Roach said.

The Rams other captain will be junior forward Amber Hurley, who had

an outstanding sophomore campaign for the Rams last season.

"Amber is just like Emily in that she really knows what's going on with the team," Roach said. "She is in her third year with us and she has become a great leader for us, always talking on the ice and getting the kids going."

Other key players for the Rams this season will include freshman forward Lainey Mead, who was one of the Rams top players last season's as just a freshman, along with sophomore defensemen Caitlyn Aprile and Kelsey Giordano, and senior Paige Fuller of Wilmington.

"Lainey may have been our best player last season, so we are looking for big things from her this season," Roach said. "And we are very solid on defense with Caitlyn and Kelsey leading us."

As for the last line of defense for the Rams, they must replace star goalie Sydney Neault of Tewksbury, which will be a tall task, but they appear to be well prepared with a pair of young goalies, eighth grader Kaitlyn Sacco and freshman Elaine Munroe.

"This is the first time I can remember that we have had two goalies, and that is great for our program," Roach said. "And they are both experienced goalies, who wanted to play goal, which has also



The Shawsheen Tech/Bedford Co-Op Girls Hockey team, which opens the season this week, has four local players on this year's roster including from left Wilmington residents Alexis Fox, Paige Fuller and Emily Sartori; and then Tewksbury resident Ashley Talbot. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

RAMS B10W

Girls Basketball team shooting for a big season

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com

BILLERICA - While last season may have ended in somewhat disappointing fashion for the Shawsheen Tech Girls Basketball team, as they finished with a 9-11 record, narrowly missing out on an MIAA Tournament bid, the season did serve an important purpose for the Rams, as several players gained some valuable varsity experience.

That experience for the younger players, as well as the return of some talented veterans there is plenty of reason for optimism for the Rams as they head into the season under the direction of new head coach Sam St. George.

St. George isn't entirely new to the Rams of course, the 2008 Shawsheen Tech grad was a three-sport star for the Rams as a player, and has been an assistant to former coach Kate Marshall for the past two seasons. She was on the sideline along with Marshall last season, and after watching this team develop, she is confident they can improve this season.

"We've got six returning varsity players, which is wonderful and both of our captains were captains last season, so they've got a great leadership mentality," St. George said. "All of our players are very familiar with our program and with each other. We will have great team chemistry, so I am really looking forward to the season. I think we can do really well."

Two of the biggest reasons for St. George's optimism are the aforementioned returning captains, senior guard Susanna Gillis and senior forward Shelby Bourdeau. The

duo led the Rams last season as just juniors, both on and off the court. Bourdeau returns to the court this season after missing the last three games of last season to have major heart surgery. St. George couldn't be happier to see her healthy and see both of her senior captains ready to lead the Rams.

"Being captains last season was a great stepping stone for them. They have been leaders of our team for two years now and that is great," St. George said. "It was a no brainer to have them as captains again this season because we really wanted to keep the consistency for the team. They are great kids and also great players, so to have kids like that as role models for our younger kids is huge for us. We are extremely grateful to have them."

Another key returnee for the Rams will be junior guard Karissa Rogato, who will see an expanded role with the team this season, a role that St. George feels she is definitely ready for.

"Karissa started one or two games for us last year and showed a lot of potential," St. George said. "She is similar to Susanna in that she is very fast, and she is one of those kids that just doesn't quit. Her dedication to working to become a better player has earned her a starting position. She is talented, and he is smart on the court as well."

Other returning players for the Rams will include senior forward Eryn Ward, sophomore forward Lindsay McCarthy and senior guard Kelley DeLosh.

"Eryn was out last season with a knee injury, so we are very happy to have



The local players on this year's Shawsheen Tech Girls Basketball team includes Ella Malvone, left of Wilmington and Kylie McFadden, right of Tewksbury. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

her back. She is very aggressive under the net, and that is what we need," St. George said. "Lindsay is very similar to Shelby Bourdeau. She can play either the four or the five. She was the only freshman on the team last season, and I think that gave her a lot of confidence heading into this season. Kelley has just gotten better and better the last couple of years. She is a very hard worker."

With the shortened preseason, much of the starting lineup is still being decided, but several other players are also expected to help the Rams this season, including Kiley

McFadden of Tewksbury and Ella Malvone of Wilmington. Other key players for the Rams will include Kaitlyn Amidon, Kerry Brown and Sarah Comeau.

Like every other team this season, the Rams are adapting to new rules put in place due to the pandemic, including wearing masks at all times, as well as several other subtle rule changes. It can make things more difficult for any team, but St. George says her team is adapting well.

"The kids are adapting much better than we thought they would. You wouldn't believe how posi-

tive they are with everything," St. George said. "There is nothing by positive energy and vibes from all of them. They just want to play and do whatever they can to get out there."

One other change this season will be the lack of a post season MIAA Tournament. Trying to qualify for the tournament is always a major goal for any team, but even without that as motivation, St. George is confident her team will be motivated throughout the season, as they try to make a run at a league title, a goal that St. George says is very realistic.

"Every year you want to make the tournament, but I haven't seen any lack of motivation from the kids," St. George said. "The energy at the start of our first practice was amazing, and the kids are all just chomping at the bit to get started. We have been telling the kids that winning the league title is very attainable."

"As coaches we believe it, and the players believe it. We are not counting anyone else out in our league, but we are confident going into the season."

Rams hoping for a better season

FROM B9W

not always been the case for us, so we are glad to have the two of them."

Other key returning players for the Rams will be junior forward Ashley Talbot of Tewksbury along with Wilmington resident, freshman forward Alex Fox, eighth grader Isabella King, and junior forward Cheyenne Caissbon.

Like most teams, the Rams have had a limited preseason this year. The Rams may have had it tougher than most teams, having gotten on the ice as a full team for the first time on Monday of this week. But with that being said, having a team of players with hockey experience should help mitigate some of that disadvantage.

"It does make it more difficult as far as putting lines together and things like that, but some of our younger players are really good skaters and have been playing with their own teams," Roach said. "I think we will be ready for the start of the season."

When the Rams do get their season underway, they will face a challenging schedule. Putting together a schedule as an independent team is always a challenge, but this year was more difficult than ever due to the pandemic.

"We got shutout from most leagues because they are playing only league games this year, so we are playing all parochial schools," Roach said. "We will be playing Arlington Catholic and Bishop Fenwick, and Malden Catholic has a new team this year that we will be playing. We also may play Saint Mary's, so there are potentially some very good teams on our schedule. I am glad we have some of the talented kids we do on the team."

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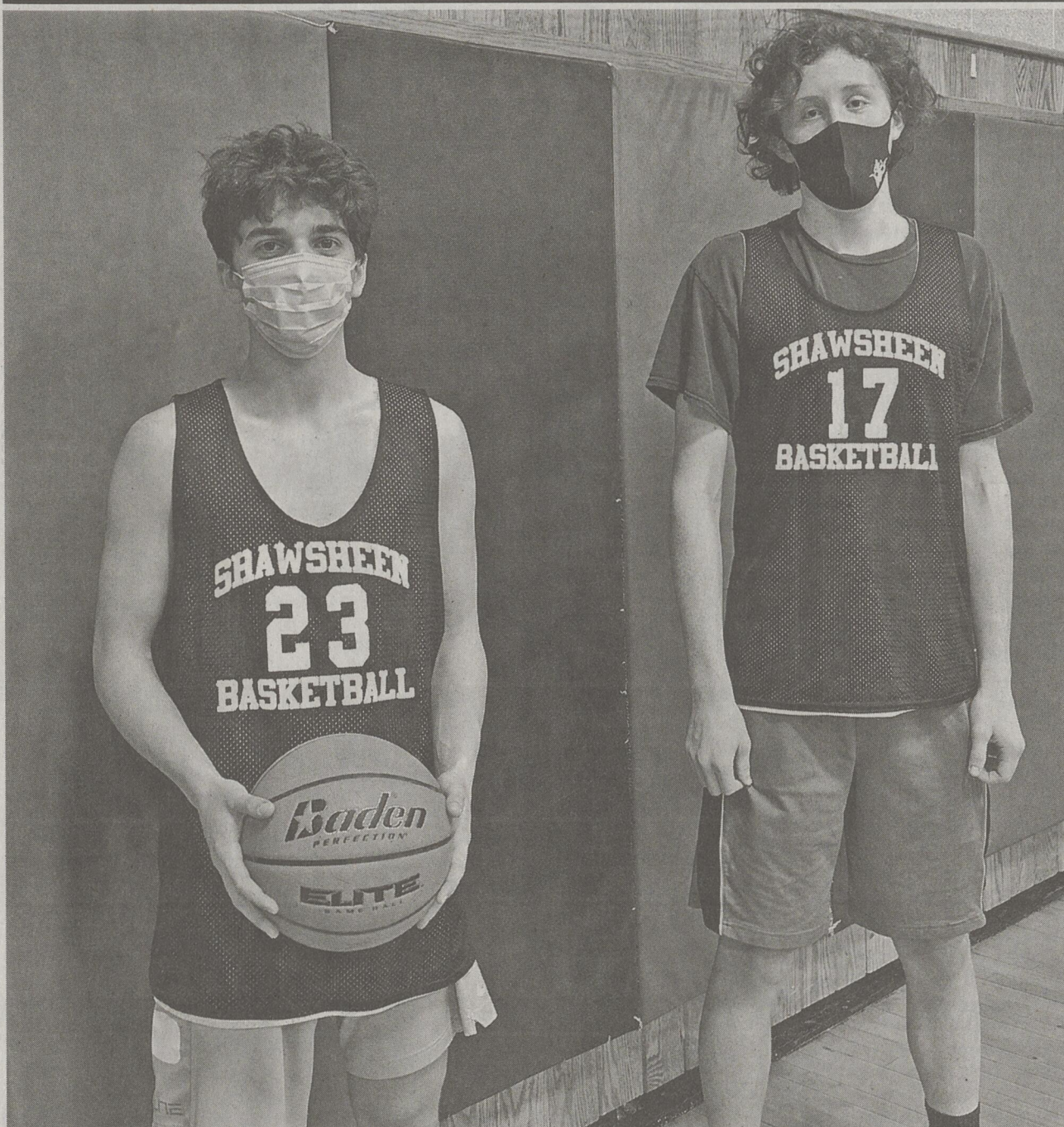


Wilmington Edition



Tewksbury Edition





Wilmington residents Devon Milano (left) and Aiden MacLeod are ready to contribute to this year's Shawsheen Tech Boys Basketball team. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

On the basketball court, Shawsheen looking for a little more consistency

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com
BILLERICA - To say last season was a roller coaster ride for the Shawsheen Tech Boys Basketball team would be an understatement. Entering the season minus almost their entire starting lineup from the CAC tri-championship team of the year before, along with a new coaching staff, the Rams sputtered at several points during the season.

But through it all, they also persevered, posting a 13-7 regular season record and qualifying for both the State Vocational Tournament and MIAA Division 3 North Tournament, surprising perhaps even their most ardent supporters.

"We had a lot of ups and downs. We had an all new coaching staff, and we had some players come and go during the season. We had some team chemistry issues that we needed to work on," said second-year coach Joe Gore. "But about halfway through the season, we hit our mark as a team and had some fun. It was a good step in the right direction for where we would like to take the program."

Now the challenge for Gore and the Rams is to continue that progress, albeit under much different circumstances, with no state tournament to shoot for this year due to the pandemic. But tournament or not, Gore feels like his team will be ready to keep the program moving forward this season.

"We are not in a position to lack any motivation at this point. We haven't won anything in a long time," Gore said. "We were tri-champs a couple of years ago, but I think it has been since 2008 that we have won an outright league title, so that is what we are striving for. When we step on the court we want to win."

Like last season, the Rams enter this season having lost several key players to graduation, including Santino Garofalo of Tewksbury, along with Connor Rich and Larry Bevis, but when Gore takes a look at the younger players on his roster, he can't help but be encouraged.

"We have some younger guys who want to make a name for themselves and we have some seniors who want to finish their careers strong," Gore said. "We are very excited for the group we have this season. It is going to be interesting because there were no fall leagues or summer leagues, but everyone is pretty much in the same boat."

"We lost six or seven seniors, so we would have liked that opportunity to build some team chemistry, but we are hoping that our leadership will carry us through."

Two of the leaders that Gore will be counting on most will be junior captain Jeremy Perez of Tewksbury along with senior captain Jake Tyler. In addition to their leadership, the duo will also form a formidable backcourt duo for the Rams, with Perez returning to

his position at point guard, while Tyler returns to his shooting guard position.

"Jeremy came up from JV early last season and once we put him in, he never came out. He is just a grinder. I can't say enough good things about him," Gore said. "He is a QB on the court. He is such a quiet kid, but he is such a leader. He makes everyone around him better."

"Jake is the best shooter in our program, and when he gets hot, he may be the best shooter in our league. We would like to see him take his game to the next level. He has been working hard in practice. If we are going to best some of the best teams in the league, we are going to need him to score."

Junior center Tim Sweeney of Tewksbury will give the Rams a strong inside presence, as the Rams try to replace the production they got last year from Garofalo.

"Tim played JV last season, but he put in a lot of work in the off season," Gore said. "He is 6'5 and very athletic. He just needs to build consistency in his game, and I think that will come with varsity experience."

The other two starters for the Rams will be sophomore small forward Mavrick Bourdeau and senior forward James Genetti, both of whom have the potential to be two of the better players in the CAC. Bourdeau burst onto the scene last season as a freshman and Gore will be looking for even better things from

him this season.

"We are very lucky to have him," Gore said. "As a sophomore, he has gotten a little taller (5'10) and a little stronger. He is one of the toughest players on the court, even at a very young age. He is a very good two way player. He will be one of our better defenders, and he can also score so he is very valuable for us."

"James has the potential to be the second best player in the league behind the kid from Lowell Catholic (Isaiah Taylor). We are really hoping he can be a good leader for us. He is very athletic and very talented, and we have high expectations for him."

A pair of Wilmington residents will be key reserves for the Rams, with Noah Rizzo coming off the bench to spell Perez and center Aiden McCloud playing key minutes off the bench as well.

"Noah will do a great job backing up Jeremy so we can actually give him some rest this season. He can score the ball pretty well, and he is also a great ball handler," Gore said. "Aiden has a ton of potential. He is a little bit raw, but he probably put in more work than anybody in the off season. He lost about 35-40 pounds and he is progressing really well. He is just a great example for the other kids."

Junior guard Jeff Kelley of Billerica will round out a very deep Rams rotation.

"He played some minutes for us last year, and he has been a leader for us so far this year," Gore said. "He is a vocal guy and he is doing a great job in practice. He can score and he will see a lot of minutes."

Gore is hoping that the team's depth this season will be a big factor as they make a run at the CAC title.

"We are hoping we can play eight or nine guys. It is going to be tough on teams with wearing the masks, so it would be nice to be able to have some depth," Gore said. "We are much more athletic this year than last year. We are hoping to be an athletic team. Those are the teams that have always given us the most trouble in the past. We are hoping to be that type of team this season."

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to Luis Lopez of 3 Marble St Fl. 2 in Haverhill Mass. who is the last registered owner of a 2014 Honda Accord

Vin# 2HGFB2F52EH519817 that this vehicle will be sold at auction on or about January 15, 2021 at A & S Towing, Inc., 222 Andover Street, Wilmington MA. The vehicle will be auctioned to recover towing and storage charges that are past due.

201232 12/23,30/20, 1/6/21

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to Jennifer Chavez Hernandez of 15 Court St Apt. 1 in Lynn, MA who is the last registered owner of a 2010 Nissan Versa

Vin# 3N1BC1CP3AL432474 that this vehicle will be sold at auction on or about January 18, 2021 at A & S Towing, Inc., 222 Andover Street, Wilmington MA. The vehicle will be auctioned to recover towing and storage charges that are past due.

201251 12/30/20, 1/6,13/21



LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 § 26-53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application for the S145/T146 Line Switch Installation Project. This application has been filed by the New England Power Company (NEP), 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, MA 02451, for the installation of new switch structures, electrical grounding grid and gravel footpath, for the Burr Road #54 substation in Andover, MA. Work is proposed within bordering vegetated wetland. The new switch structures will allow shorter sections of transmission line to be de-energized during maintenance and emergency work, improving overall reliability and electrical service during maintenance activities. Additional information may be obtained from BSC Group, Inc., 33 Waldo Street, Worcester, MA 01608, Attn: Marleigh Sullivan, Ecological Scientist.

Written comments on the 401 WQC must be sent within twenty-one (21) days of this notice to:

Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
Division of Wetlands and Waterways Program
205B Lowell Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.

210010 1/6/21

LEGAL NOTICE



TOWN OF WILMINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN MEETING
WARRANT ARTICLES

Notice is hereby given that Articles submitted by petition for inclusion in the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting to be held May 1, 2021, must be submitted to the Town Clerk's Office, Wilmington Town Hall, 121 Glen Road, Wilmington, no later than 4:30 p.m. on February 5, 2021.

Jonathan R. Eaton,
Chairman
Board of Selectmen

201258 1/6,13,20/21

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to Anthony Lupo of 30 Highview Rd in Rockport Mass. who is the last registered owner of a 2004 Ford F350

Vin# 1FTSW31PX4EC79373 that this vehicle will be sold at auction on or about January 15, 2021 at A & S Towing, Inc., 222 Andover Street, Wilmington MA. The vehicle will be auctioned to recover towing and storage charges that are past due.

201231 12/23,30/20, 1/6/21

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 1341 and M.G.L. c. 21 § 26-53, notice is given of a 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) application for the S145/T146 Line Switch Installation Project. This application has been filed by the New England Power Company (NEP), 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, MA 02451, for the installation of new switch structures, electrical grounding grid and gravel footpath, for the East Tewksbury #59 substation in Tewksbury, MA. Work is proposed within bordering vegetated wetland. The new switch structures will allow shorter sections of transmission line to be de-energized during maintenance and emergency work, improving overall reliability and electrical service during maintenance activities. Additional information may be obtained from BSC Group, Inc., 33 Waldo Street, Worcester, MA 01608, Attn: Marleigh Sullivan, Ecological Scientist.

Written comments on the 401 WQC must be sent within twenty-one (21) days of this notice to:

Department of Environmental Protection
Northeast Regional Office
Division of Wetlands and Waterways Program
205B Lowell Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Any group of ten persons, any aggrieved person, or any governmental body or private organization with a mandate to protect the environment who submits written comments may appeal the Department's Certification. Failure to submit written comments before the end of the public comment period may result in the waiver of any right to an adjudicatory hearing.

210009 1/6/21

LEGAL NOTICE



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
THE TRIAL COURT
PROBATE AND
FAMILY COURT

Middlesex Probate
and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-5800

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

Docket No. MI20P5732EA

Estate of:
William J. Wilkinson, Jr.
Date of Death: 10/29/2020

To all interested persons:
A Petition for Formal Probate of Will with Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by Wayne R. Wilkinson of Groton MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: Wayne R. Wilkinson of Groton MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve Without Surety on the bond in an unsupervised administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 01/21/2021.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED
ADMINISTRATION UNDER
THE MASSACHUSETTS
UNIFORM PROBATE
CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. Maureen H. Monks, First Justice of this Court.
Date: December 24, 2020

Tara E. DeCristofaro,
Register of Probate

210012 1/6/21

Where's the Action?

Day	Date	Sport	Opponent	Time
Wilmington High Sports				
Thursday	January 7	Co-Ed Swimming	vs Triton	7:00 pm
Saturday	January 9	V Girls Hoop	at Burlington	11:00 am
Saturday	January 9	V Boys Hockey	vs Burlington	12:30 pm
Saturday	January 9	V Boys Hoop	vs Burlington	1:00 pm
Sunday	January 10	V Boys Hockey	at Wakefield	11:30 am
Wednesday	January 13	V Girls Hockey	vs Wakefield	8:00 pm
Tewksbury High Sports				
Monday	January 11	V Girls Hockey	at Billerica	5:00 pm
Wednesday	January 13	V Girls Hockey	vs Andover	4:30 pm
Wednesday	January 13	V Girls Hoop	vs North Andover	5:30 pm
Wednesday	January 13	V Boys Hoop	at North Andover	7:00 pm
Thursday	January 14	V Boys Hockey	vs North Andover	7:30 pm
Shawsheen Tech Sports				
Thursday	January 7	V Boys Hockey	vs Lowell Catholic	7:10 pm
Monday	January 11	V Girls Hockey	vs Central Catholic	TBA
Tuesday	January 12	V Girls Hoop	vs Nashoba Tech	5:00 pm
Tuesday	January 12	V Boys Hoop	at Nashoba Tech	5:30 pm
Wednesday	January 13	V Boys Hockey	at Essex Tech	6:30 pm

Stillings enjoying his hockey journey from player to coach

FROM B7W

he was homesick and wanted to be back closer to home, with Kristen, who at the time was his girlfriend, and of course get closer to a Dunkin Donuts - he had to drive 45 minutes to find one.

During the time that he was itching to get back, he noticed that Jacobs was returning to coach at Cushing Academy. He applied and got both the teaching and coaching positions.

"I am now a full-time assistant with the storied varsity team that has produced multiple NHL players and Olympians," he said.

There's a long list of former and current NHL players who once suited up for Cushing Academy.

Among the most recognizable names include Jeff Norton ('84, went on to Michigan, the Olympics and the NHL), Chris and Ryan Bourque, Keith Yandle (two-time NHL All-Star), David Warsofsky, Tom Poti ('96 went on to B, the Olympics and the NHL) and many others. In addition, many Penguin NCAA players have skated at Boston College, Boston

University, Northeastern, UNH, Maine, UConn, UMass Lowell, UMass Amherst, Providence, Merrimack, Harvard, Cornell, Yale, Notre Dame, Holy Cross, Clarkson, Colgate, Union, St. Lawrence, Vermont, RPI, West Point, Air Force, Bowling Green, Colorado College, Denver, Michigan, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Arizona State, as well as some of the D3 schools including Bowdoin, Colby, Connecticut College, Middlebury, Trinity, Norwich, and St. Anselm.

"Cushing has to be one of the most storied prep school hockey programs in the country," said Stillings. "It has an amazing campus and rink in rural Ashburnham. It's only an hour drive to Wilmington/Boston and yes, there is a Dunkin in town."

"I live on the beautiful campus with my wife Kristen, who is a third-grade teacher in nearby Lunenburg. We have a dog named Zeke. I love the small campus and getting to work with Steve in developing young men and women

of character."

During his time as a coach, Stillings has worked with a number of goalies. His first one was Joe Sharib, who is currently playing Juniors but has committed to play at D1 Union College. The team's current goalie is Jackson Irving, who Stillings said is just as good as Sharib. Irving started out at St. John's Prep before making the switch.

"I am also Jackson's advisor and his history teacher on campus. A great part of Cushing is getting to work with the kids in so many different areas. I get to be an advisor help kids like Jackson navigate not just hockey but their whole high school experience. It feels great giving back."

The last two years Cushing has been defeated in the New England Prep School Large School championship game, while finishing with a record of 28-8-3. The team would like nothing more to get back there this season.

"We are hoping to have a mini-season in February despite COVID-19 when the students return in January.



Tyler Stillings played four years of hockey at Assumption College and received the Coaches Award as a senior. Enjoying the special moment with him were his parents Ralph and Linda. (courtesy photo).

A pair of youth hockey teams score wins

Mite 3
Wilmington 7,
North Central 6

In a back-and-forth game played a day after Christmas as the Hallenborg Arena in Billerica, both teams combined for 13 goals, with the Wildcats coming away with a thrilling one-goal victory.

Vlad Kusa led the offensive attack as he deposited five goals in the back of the North Central net,

while his teammates Thomas Fennelly and Ryan Duggan had one each.

Squirt 1
Wilmington 2,
Haverhill 1

With first place on the line, in a thrilling defensive battle game, the two teams went neck-and-neck through three periods with the 'Cats coming out on top.

Haverhill scored its only

goal coming just 15 seconds into the game. After that Wilmington's goalie Mason King was lights out, stopping every shot coming his way. He got some help when his teammate Alex Sullivan tied the game up late in the first period.

The score remained tied until just under three minutes to go when Jack Raposa netted the exciting game winner.

Along with Irving, this year's team features lots of talent. We were really excited to get back out there after the last two years. We have two local talented players this team was going to feature with Jackson Dorrington, who is from North Reading and has committed to play at Northeastern and Billy Norcross, who is from Lynn and has committed to Boston College. Both of them are equally as good human beings as they are hock-

ey players. I think we have five Division 1 commits already on this year's team."

From his days in Wilmington Youth Hockey to Brooks to Assumption and the minor pit stops along the way, Tyler Stillings continues to make a name for himself in the sport of hockey. He said his parents Ralph and Linda, as well as grandfather all helped him along this career path.

"I am truly blessed to help great kids and

learn from a legend in Coach Steve Jacobs, who has never had a losing season in 28 or so seasons coaching Prep School Hockey. He really is the Bill Belichick of New England Prep School Hockey and I am truly blessed to learn from him. Maybe someday I'll want to be a head coach, but right now I am very happy in my current role at Cushing."



Kelly

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2017 NISSAN SENTRA iPod/MP3 Input, Bluetooth, CD Player 34,053 miles. Stock WP0413	\$12,528	2017 Honda CIVIC LX Back-Up Camera, iPod/MP3 Input, Bluetooth. 9,425 miles W200732A	\$16,483	2017 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT SL Leather Seats, Navigation, All Wheel Drive, 18,498 miles. WP0385	\$18,208	2017 NISSAN ROGUE SL Leather Seats, Navigation, AWD, 34,855 miles. WP0443	\$20,998
2017 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, iPod/MP3 Input 26,463 miles. WP0404	\$13,498	WE BUY CARS! ALL MAKES & MODELS!					
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2015 NISSAN ALTIMA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, iPod/MP3 Input 46,013 miles. W210034A	\$14,274	2017 NISSAN MAXIMA S Navigation, Back-Up Camera, 22,727 miles. W201001A.	\$17,983	2015 NISSAN FRONTIER SV 4x4, Satellite Radio, iPod/MP3 Input, Bluetooth 57,927 miles. W201196A	\$19,674	2016 ACURA RDX AWD Navigation, Sunroof, All Wheel Drive, Power Liftgate 46,650 miles. W200644A	\$21,374
2018 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 21,131 miles. Stock WP0376	\$14,405	2017 NISSAN MAXIMA Navigation, Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 8,858 miles Stock W200349A	\$17,985	2018 NISSAN ROGUE All Wheel Drive, Power Liftgate, Heated Driver Seat. 35,556 miles. WP0429	\$19,798	2019 NISSAN MAXIMA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio. 4,656 miles. Stock WP0435S	\$25,426
2018 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 34,113 miles miles. WW200813A	\$14,798	2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD Heated Driver Seat, Bluetooth. 30,271 miles. WP0442	\$17,998	2018 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD, Power Liftgate, Heated Driver Seat WP0453	\$19,998	2019 NISSAN MAXIMA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio.	\$26,825
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OBITUARIES

Joan M. O'Donoghue Accountant for the Portex Company

Joan M. O'Donoghue, of Woburn and formerly of Wilmington passed away peacefully at the Sawtelle Family Hospice House in Reading, Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020. She was 87.

Joan was the beloved wife of the late F. James "Buddy" O'Donoghue. Born in Winchester she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Anna (Emerson) Kelley.

Joan was raised and educated in Woburn where she was a member 1951 graduating class of Woburn High School.

Joan moved to Wilmington in the early 1960s where she raised her family on Lawrence Street before moving back to Woburn in 1995 following the completion of the building of her new home.

For many years Joan worked as an accountant for the Portex Company in Wilmington. She loved her work and also loved her co-workers.

In her retirement years, Joan loved to spend the summer months at her cottage on Lake Winnisquam in Belmont, NH where she created an additional group of won-

derful friends that she truly enjoyed being in the company of.

Joan will fondly be remembered as a fun and gregarious woman who loved her family and friends with all her heart. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

In addition to her beloved husband Buddy, Joan is sadly predeceased by six siblings. She is survived by her children: Maureen O'Donoghue-Sack and her husband Stephen of Billerica, Michael O'Donoghue and his wife Lauren of Wilmington, Kathleen Stone and her husband Kevin of Pepperell, James O'Donoghue of Winchester, NH, Laurie Rando and her husband Joseph of Mendon, Michele Lloyd and her husband Keith of Tewksbury, Brian O'Donoghue of Woburn, and JoAnne O'Donoghue-Schmidt and her husband William of Lowell.

She is also survived by 12 loving grandchildren and 12 loving great-grandchildren. Sister of Edward Maciejko of Woburn.

Due to the current health pandemic and out of con-



cern for everyone's safety funeral services will be private. A memorial service will be held at a later date when it is safe for all to gather.

It has been requested that contributions may be made on Joan's memory to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Arrangements by the McLaughlin-Dello Russo Family Funeral Service of Woburn.

For complete obituary and to leave an online message of condolence please visit www.dellorusso.net

John A. White, Jr. Served in the Army during World War II

John A. White, Jr., age 95, a life-long resident of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Dec. 29, 2020.

John was born at home in Wilmington on July 8, 1925;

he was the cherished son of the late John and Georgeanna White. John was raised and educated in Wilmington; he was part of a large and loving family of seven siblings who all grew up in their Glen Road homestead.

John felt the urge to be part of the "Greatest Generation" when he enlisted in the United States Army on July 6, 1943, serving our country during World War II. John served as a Private for SCU 1275 beginning his active duty on July 23, 1943. Following his honorable discharge in February of 1945, John returned to his home and family in Wilmington.

In his early years, John was known to be a character and a bit of a rebel; he had his pilot's license and thought it would be a good idea to buzz over the family homestead just a little too close to the neighborhood houses while his dad and uncle Henry were out tending to the gardens. Needless to say that was the end of his pilot-ing career.

He also had a fascination for fast cars and was always the first to volunteer to drive the midget racers for Bob Cain, Forest Dame, his brother-in-law Frank or anyone else who needed a driver. His passion and competitive spirit remained with him throughout his life-time and served him well in his career as a salesman.

John fell in love with Helen Elizabeth Huntley, fondly known as Liz to her family and friends, when he was a young man; the couple were soon inseparable. They built

their dream home in Wilmington in 1958 and married in 1959.

John and Liz shared many wonderful years together before her passing in July of 2011.

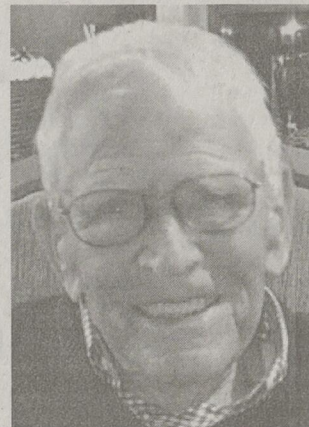
When John and Liz became parents to their only child Eric, he was over the moon; his son was his world and their wasn't anything he wouldn't do for him. When Eric married his wife Michelle, John gained a "daughter" and soon he was blessed with his only grandchild Jocelyn who was the apple of her "Papa's" eye. Family was so important to John and Liz, they always made time for their family and extended family cherishing the many great times they had together.

Prior to retiring, John worked as a salesman for several construction equipment companies but for many years he worked selling John Deere construction equipment. John's outgoing personality and vast knowledge of his job made him a favorite among his clients as well as his co-workers.

John was a giver of his time and talents to help others; he was a member of the Friendship Lodge of Masons for over 70 years and a Shriner. John was always one of the first to volunteer to help anyone in need, he was involved in countless community events and fundraisers all for a good cause.

He gave selflessly of his time, his knowledge, his talents, his kindness and friendship to everyone; he could work a room until he knew everyone in attendance.

In his spare time, John loved to vacation with Liz and his family in Florida where many wonderful memories were made. John will be fondly remembered



as a social guy, with a bel-lowing personality and a great smile. He was always willing to go out of his way for his family and friends; he loved them with all his heart and he will forever be missed.

John was the beloved husband of the late Helen "Liz" (Huntley) White, devoted father of Eric White and his wife Michelle and loving "Papa" of his only grand-child Jocelyn White all of Wilmington.

Cherished son of the late John A. and Georgeanna (Sanderson) White, dear brother of Charles White of Wakefield, NH, the late Violet Wood, George, Ernest, Robert and Richard White. John is further survived by many nieces and nephews.

Family and friends gathered for Visitation at the Nichols Funeral Home, 187 Middlesex Ave. (Rt. 62), Wilmington, on Saturday, Jan. 2 from 9:30 - 11 a.m. followed by a Funeral Service at 11 a.m. Interment with Military Honors followed in Wild-wood Cemetery, Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Shriner's Hospital for Children - Boston, Attn: Development Office, 51 Blossom St., Boston, MA 02114.

www.nicholsfuneralhome.com



▲ Deesha Philyaw and Book Stew host Eileen MacDougall

(Photo credit: Don Leard, WCTV)

Book Stew asks:

What are 'Church Ladies' really thinking?

The January Book Stew episode features 2019 National Book Award nominee Deesha Philyaw and her short story collection "The Secret Life of Church Ladies" (now also available as an audiobook through Audible).

These nine stories are overflowing with humor and family tensions and good and bad relation-

ships and especially Black joy. My favorite was "Dear Sister" written in the form of a letter of introduction to a newly discovered family member. I think you'll really relish hearing Deesha read an excerpt.

Please check out the new Book Stew episode on WCTV on Tuesdays at 1 p.m., Wednesdays at 8 p.m., Friday at 7 p.m., and Sat-

urdays at noon. Also available on demand:

Video: <https://wilmington.vod.castus.tv/vod/?video=6a461992-0d89-49bd-9469-a0d904b4770b>

podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/wctvpodcasting/book-stew-ep-86-deesha-philyaw?in=wctvpodcasting/sets/book-stew>

Sen. Tarr secures major climate change legislation

BOSTON — Major climate change legislation adopted by the Massachusetts Senate and House of Representatives this week includes a landmark first-in-the-nation provision relative to carbon sequestration long championed by Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr to accurately measure carbon stored by, and released from, natural and working lands.

Tarr authored and offered an amendment to the Senate version of a bill that modernizes the state's climate laws to reduce pollution, generate energy from renewable sources, and reduce its consumption. His proposals, incorporated into the final conference committee report and now on Governor Charlie Baker's desk, requires the Department of Conservation and Recreation to develop and maintain an inventory of "natural and working lands" that currently sequester carbon from the environment or have the potential to do even more to combat the effects of greenhouse gas emissions in the future.

Tarr noted that House Minority Leader Brad Jones (R-North Reading) filed a similar amendment to the House version of the bill.

"This measure provides powerful tools and information that will give us the capability to go beyond reducing future carbon emissions, and actually remove current and future emissions from the atmosphere," said Sen. Tarr (R-Gloucester). "We can achieve nation-leading results by effective stewardship of natural resources like marshlands and forests. That's

why this approach has been supported by organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, Mass Audubon, The Trust for Public Land, the Environmental League of Massachusetts, and others. Their ongoing efforts have been critical to the success of these provisions."

"The Nature Conservancy greatly appreciates Senator Tarr's leadership and bipartisan approach on climate change. He truly 'gets' the important role nature based solutions can play in avoiding the unmanageable and managing the unavoidable impacts of climate change," said Steve Long The Nature Conservancy, Director of Government Relations. "The Natural and Working Lands inclusion in the NextGen RoadMap bill makes Massachusetts the first state to approve legislation recognizing the role nature can play in drawing carbon pollution from the atmosphere."

By utilizing Massachusetts' natural resources more effectively and responsibly, experts see benefits greater than carbon pollution sequestration alone; other benefits include water quality protection, flood control, and stormwater management, and support for forests, wetlands, and soils.

Massachusetts marshes, estuaries, forests, and farms sequester millions of tons of carbon dioxide from the air each year. According to the state's Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, each acre of forest land that reaches the public's water sources filters 500,000 gallons of drinking water per year.

storehouse for carbon, these forests and other working lands can produce other benefits, such as water recharge, when protected, managed, and restored.

The Natural and Working Lands section of the energy bill defines such lands as actively used for agricultural operations such as engagement in farming or ranching, the production of forest products, and those that consist of forests, grasslands, freshwater and riparian systems, wetlands, coastal and estuarine areas, watersheds, wildlands or wildlife habitats; and those used for recreational purposes, including parks, urban and community forests, trails and other similar lands.

Tewksbury residents

Dooling, Surowiec serve as various club leaders

WORCESTER — The Assumption University Office of Student Activities has announced those who are currently serving as leaders of the University's many clubs and organizations for the 2020-21 academic year. Local students include:

Alanna Dooling of Tewksbury is currently serving as President of the Merely Players. Merely Players is a student-run theater group that produces and performs one show per semester in the University's state-of-the-art Jeanne Y. Curtis Performance Hall.

Samantha Surowiec of Tewksbury is currently serving as President of the Residence Hall Association. The Residence Hall Association oversees the hall councils in each of the residence halls and the events they organize, as well as holds fundraisers and late-night events.

At Assumption, students have the opportunity to participate in more than 60 groups and organizations on campus that serve an array of interests including leadership, academic interests, club sports, performance, and media" said Sara Swillo Muckian, director of student activities and leadership development. "Student clubs and organizations complement classroom instruction by providing students the opportunity to plan a number of exciting events in which students use their talents and passions, as well as what they have learned in the classroom. In addition, clubs and organizations help to sustain the Assumption traditions beloved by students and alumni alike."

During the fall semester several student groups continued their important work virtually, such as collecting

donations to purchase supplies for Veterans and raising money for a local charity that was used to buy Christmas gifts for children in need. These are two of many examples of how these student-run groups give Assumption students outlets to apply classroom knowledge to projects that help better both the campus and Worcester communities, network with professional, and learn important leadership skills.

For more information about Assumption's student activities, visit www.assumption.edu/campus-life/student-activities.

For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu

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Check our photographers' websites.

Under each photo by our photographers is a photo credit.

Bruce Hilliard uses BruceHilliard.com

Joe Brown uses joebrownphotos.com

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Enjoy wine tasting on the Cape this winter

By **HEATHER BURNS**
News Correspondent

There are many images that come to mind when thinking about taking a day trip to Cape Cod.

Quaint, antique shops, a hot cup of chowder, and a quiet stroll on the beach are all reminiscent of a winter-time trip to Cape Cod.

When planning your next off season trip, you may want to add "wine tasting at an award winning winery" to your list of favorite things to do on ole Cape Cod.

Located at 527 North Main St. (not to be confused with Route 28 Main Street) in Harwich, The First Crush Winery is an unexpected, hidden gem, and I do mean "hidden."

Following instructions from a trusty GPS, you will drive into the Olde Depot, a small industrial

park, and would think you made a wrong turn.

Upon closer inspection, the plain, industrial building is just a camouflage for the warm and inviting winery that is nestled inside.

A mixture of antique wine making devices, beautiful wooden wine barrels, and state of the art wine making equipment welcomes you to the First Crush Winery.

The First Crush Winery was established in 2012 by retired Cape Cod eye doctor, Frank Puzio.

Besides his degree in the medical field, Puzio also holds a bachelor degree in chemistry. Puzio's education mixed with his passion for fine wine has created the perfect storm for this unusual Cape Cod winery.

Besides the unconventional location of this winery, this winery stands apart from other New England wineries because of

it's unusual co-operative program.

The COOP program offers optional, hands-on training in the art of finer wine making, as well as offering a discounted price on the wine that members help produce.

Members are welcome to participate in one, or all aspects of wine making, such as the crush process (crushing of the grapes), fermentation, racking, and bottling.

Although participation in winemaking is not required to become a member, members that choose to participate also enjoy the pride they feel when serving wine to their friends and family that they personally helped produce.

Currently, over 600 COOP members enjoy the discounted prices, comradery, and enology education that membership offers. They are also invited to participate in winery social events.

Quarterly, social events are held at the winery to thank COOP members and to invite prospective new members to learn more about the winery and the COOP.

Because of the high price of land on Cape Cod, a short New England growing season, and the lack of mineral-rich volcanic soils needed to grow grapes for fine wines, First Crush does not have their own, onsite vineyard.

First Crush has created relationships with Northern California growers that border the Napa Valley, who deliver their product to the east coast within four days of harvest, ensuring the highest

▲ A wood wine barrel inside the First Crush Winery.

(Heather Burns photos)



▲ An antique wine making device at the First Crush Winery.

quality product possible.

It takes about one full year to create a bottle of wine, but it is well worth the wait.

First Crush offers nine different types of fine wines, including two cranberry-raisin hybrid wines made with locally grown Cape Cod cranberries.

This small New England winery sells approximately 55 thousand bottles of wine a year, and in a recent San Francisco International Wine Competition, they earned several gold and silver medals.

Winter hours for the winery are Thursday and Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The winery offers wine

tastings at \$15 a person. This includes a complimentary cheese plate to snack on while you sample different wines. No reservations are required for tastings, unless you have a group, then it is suggested to call ahead first.

Wine can also be purchased onsite by the glass, bottle or case.

If you are interested in joining the COOP, but would like to try a bottle of their wine without making a trip to the winery, you can purchase a bottle a little closer to home.

First Crush is a member of the Massachusetts Wine Association, and you can find their wines in the Massachusetts Wine Association wine store in the

Boston Public Market located at Haymarket Square in Boston.

This winter, in order to spend a perfect January evening by the fire, first take a leisurely drive to Harwich.

A winter day trip to Cape Cod is a breeze, as there is little to no traffic. The same can be said for snow amounts on the Cape, as they usually get less snow than the Merrimack Valley area.

Enjoy a fun and informative trip by day, and good conversation and a fine bottle of wine that night.

For more information on becoming a Coop member of the First Crush winery, visit www.firstcrushwinery.com.



▲ A wood wine barrel inside the First Crush Winery.

(Heather Burns photos)

Beat the winter blues with a hike in the Blue Hills

By **PAIGE IMPINK**
News Correspondent

paige@yourtowncrier.com

As getting exercise becomes increasingly complicated during the coronavirus pandemic, more and more people are turning to woodland trails. Despite the requirement in Massachusetts to wear masks outdoors, exploring is still as interesting as ever and in the chilly weather, the mask now adds a layer of wind and cold protection.

On a recent weekday we explored the Blue Hills Reservation in Canton.

There are many trails to choose from, crisscrossing the 7,000 acre area. Glacial deposits litter the landscape. The geology of the Blue Hills is interesting in that it is volcanic. The hills are rhyolite, an extrusive igneous rock.

Time and erosion have worn away evidence of the actual lava flows, according to geologists familiar

with the area, but there are still the remains of even older base rocks known as the Mattapan volcanics.

The defunct Quincy quarries, on the eastern side of the park, are reported to show evidence of the type of dark green to gray granite characteristic of a magma chamber.

The quarries were active from 1825 until the early 1960s, and exposed the coarse granite signature according to an online interview by Les Tyralla, a geologist who volunteers with Friends of the Blue Hills.

All levels of ability will find options at Blue Hills as there are hikes of varying length and difficulty. Those who make it to the top of any of the hills will be rewarded with views of Boston Harbor. The Blue Hills reservation touches four towns; Randolph, Milton, Quincy and Dedham.

Managed by the Department of Conservation and

Recreation, the hills provide a welcome chance to get some cardio within a stone's throw of several major highways. Before heading out, be sure to have sturdy footwear, a charged cell phone and a map of the area. The DCR has a new, color-coded map available online which explains all the hiking options in great detail, including distance, difficulty, average length in time, and narrative trail descriptions.

We parked at the Unquity Road lot on the Milton side of the reservation. Wandering along the base of the hill, we worked our way counterclockwise to the Skyline Trail and headed back north following the blue markers. Even though most of the hikes are well signed, there are over 120 miles of trails, so it is really important to have a map and a plan.

Indigenous peoples who settled in the hills and



▲ A winter scene at the Blue Hills.

(Paige Impink photo)

near the Neponset River were called the Massachusett or "people living near the great hills" according to information from the DCR, and is how the Commonwealth got its name.

The hills provided fertile land for growing crops, and was close to fishing and water sources. Sailors

exploring the coast were struck by the blueish hue of the hills in the distance and named the area Blue Hills. The land was purchased by the Metropolitan District Commission in 1893 as a recreation and conservation area.

There is a wide diversity of plants and animals in the park, including bogs,

ponds, and several endangered wildlife species such as the timber rattlesnake. Recreation options include mountain biking, downhill and cross country skiing, and non-motorized boating in season.

<https://www.mass.gov/locations/blue-hills-reservation>



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Governor Baker signs health care legislation

BOSTON — Governor Charlie Baker signed comprehensive health care legislation that promotes key priorities initially included in the Administration's health care legislation filed in 2019. The new law increases insurance coverage for telehealth services, expands the scope of practice for nurse practitioners, other specialized nurses, and optometrists, and takes steps to protect consumers from surprise medical bills. Recognizing the continuing impacts of COVID-19, the law also extends requirements for all insurance carriers in Massachusetts to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment.

The legislation signed today contains several priorities initially included in the Baker-Polito Administration's health care legislation which was introduced in the fall of 2019, including requiring coverage of telehealth services and expanding the scope of practice for Advanced Practice Nurses. The legislation also extends, and in some instances codifies, critical measures taken through executive action throughout the pandemic to ensure timely access and coverage for COVID-19 treatment and services.

In addition to the provisions enacted today, the recently signed Fiscal Year 2021 budget includes several provisions that correspond to proposals initially introduced in the Administration's health care legislation. These proposals require all Massachusetts insurers to use a standard credentialing form, and prohibit additional costs for same-day billing for multiple primary care and behavioral health visits.

The key provisions of the new law include:

- Requiring coverage of telehealth services including behavioral health care
- Expanding Scope of Practice for Advanced Practice Nurses and Optometrists
- Increasing disclosures around provider costs and network status to protect consumers from surprise medical bills
- Removing barriers to urgent care centers for MassHealth members
- Extending insurance coverage and access to COVID-19 testing and

treatment

- Directing a study and report of the impacts of COVID-19 on the health care system

"Massachusetts has long been a leader in ensuring health care quality and access and with this new law, we are making further progress in building a strong, accessible and affordable health care system, a goal that is more important now than ever," said Governor Charlie Baker. "I am proud to sign this legislation which promotes telehealth services that have become vital during this pandemic, expands access to high-quality, affordable care, takes steps to protect consumers from surprise medical bills, and preserves access to COVID-19 testing and treatment. We look forward to working with our partners in the Legislature and the health care community to build on these reforms in the future."

"The legislation signed today will increase access to high quality, affordable health care for residents and families across the Commonwealth, and we thank our legislative partners for their collaboration on these important issues," said Lt. Governor Karyn Polito. "We were pleased that many of the shared priorities that we introduced in our health care legislation were enacted as part of the final legislation and look forward to this law strengthening the Commonwealth's health care system for years to come."

"The COVID-19 public health emergency required immediate changes to our health care system to maintain health care capacity and help our residents cope during this extraordinarily challenging time. We're pleased to now codify policies that help people access the treatment and services they need in our fight against COVID-19, and look forward to seeing them in action," said Secretary of Health and Human Services Marylou Sudders. "Now more than ever do we need to ensure access to behavioral health care services, as the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the need and urgency to increase behavioral health care access across the state. I applaud the Legislature for addressing several proposals to increase cov-

erage and address barriers to necessary behavioral health services. We plan to release our behavioral health roadmap in the coming weeks and look forward to partnering with the Legislature to implement overdue reforms to ensure we have a true behavioral health system."

"This pandemic has brought an urgency to the need to make quality healthcare more accessible to all," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D - Ashland). "By eliminating barriers to care, protecting patients from surprise billing practices, and advancing our state's support for community hospitals, testing sites and medical staff, this comprehensive legislation will equip healthcare providers to truly put patients first. I am particularly happy that rate parity for telehealth services will remain a permanent option for Massachusetts patients — thereby expanding efficiency in care while reducing stress for everyone involved. I want to offer my thanks to Senator Friedman, Speaker Mariano and their fellow conferees for their hard work, as well as former Speaker DeLeo for his partnership in advancing these significant reforms, and Governor Baker for signing this important bill."

"This legislation applies lessons learned during the pandemic to make long-lasting changes in the way people access health care services," said House Speaker Ronald Mariano (D - Quincy). "I want to thank Governor Baker and his Administration for signing this bill into law and for the emergency measures they implemented during the pandemic to stabilize our health care system. I also want to thank Senate President Karen Spilka and Senator Cindy Friedman for their cooperation and partnership."

"This conference committee report embraces the best of both the Senate and House bills to create comprehensive and necessary healthcare reforms," said Senator Cindy Friedman (D - Arlington), co-chair of the Joint Committee on Health Care Financing. "While there is still more to do to improve patient outcomes and access to care, this bill takes a meaningful step forward by ensuring that the Com-

monwealth's healthcare system can continue to meet the needs of patients during this unprecedented time, and long after the COVID-19 pandemic has ended. I am grateful to the House for their collaboration and to Senate President Spilka and Chair Rodrigues for their leadership, and I want to thank Governor Baker for recognizing the importance of this legislation by signing it into law today."

"This legislation continues to advance our shared goal of transforming mental health care access and delivery in Massachusetts," said Senator Julian Cyr (D - Truro), co-chair of the Joint Committee on Mental Health, Substance Use and Recovery. "This legislation will do so much good, but particularly it will expand mental health care access for rural residents, people of color, working families, and young people."

"I would like to thank Speaker Mariano, Governor Baker, and my colleagues on the Conference Committee for all of their hard work to get this incredibly important and timely piece of legislation across the finish line," said Joint Committee on Public Health House Co-Chair Representative John J. Mahoney (D - Worcester). "As we enter these difficult months ahead in the midst of the pandemic, it is imperative that health care be as accessible and affordable as possible across the Commonwealth, and this legislation solidifies that ongoing commitment."

"The legislation addresses several key factors in making healthcare more accessible and medical bills less surprising," said Representative Randy Hunt (R - Sandwich). "Telehealth is here to stay and, combined with expansion of practice responsibilities, more people in more places will receive quality medical care. I especially applaud mandatory coverage for PANS and PANDAS and my heart goes out to all of the families dealing with these devastating conditions."

"Health care is critical to the physical and mental well-being of our residents. This historic legis-

lation will allow and expand access to Telehealth, reform the healthcare workforce, provide assistance to eligible community hospitals, increase cost transparency, provides coverage to PANDAS/PANS, eliminate barriers to urgent care facilities for MassHealth patients, and provide access to COVID-19 testing and treatment," said Senator Dean Tran (R - Fitchburg). "It was a privilege to be on the conference committee and worked closely with my colleagues in the Senate and House, as well as with the Governor and Lieutenant Governor on this legislation to become law."

Key provisions of the law signed today include:

Strengthening Telehealth Coverage: At the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Baker-Polito Administration, through emergency order, required insurers to immediately cover telehealth to ensure the continuity of services remotely when it was not safe to do so in person. This led to a rapid shift to remote delivery and significant uptake in telehealth services. The legislation builds on these emergency flexibilities, and requires coverage parity for telehealth services and implements permanent telehealth rate parity for behavioral health services. Additionally, it requires rate parity for telehealth coverage for primary care and chronic disease management services for two years, and rate parity for all services for 90 days past the state of emergency.

Expanding Scope of Practice: During the public health emergency, the Administration implemented emergency orders to increase health care system capacity, including temporarily expanding the scope of practice for several types of practitioners, and streamlining licensure requirements before independent practice. The new law makes permanent certain measures to expand scope of practice for nurse practitioners, nurse anesthetists, psychiatric nurse mental health specialists and optometrists.

Taking Steps to Address Surprise Billing: The new

legislation takes steps to protect consumers from surprise bills, including a provision that requires providers to notify patients in advance as to whether a procedure is in or out of network. Additionally, it directs the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services to work with the Health Policy Commission, Center for Health Information and Analytics, and Division of Insurance to recommend a default rate for out of network billing by September of 2021.

Increasing Access to Urgent Care for MassHealth Members: Retail clinics and urgent care centers provide important access points to health care beyond the traditional hours and sites of physician offices, community health centers, and hospitals. This legislation takes several steps to increase MassHealth member access to urgent care sites, including eliminating referral requirements before urgent care visits and requirements for care coordination with the member's primary care physician.

COVID-19 Related Provisions: The bill extends requirements for insurers in Massachusetts to cover COVID-19 testing and treatment. Under this legislation, insurers, including MassHealth, are required to cover all COVID-19 related emergency, inpatient, and cognitive rehab services. Additionally, coverage is required for medically necessary outpatient COVID-19 testing, including for asymptomatic individuals under specific circumstances outlined by the Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The legislation also directs the Health Policy Commission and Center for Health Information and Analytics to analyze and report on the effect of COVID-19 on healthcare accessibility, quality and fiscal sustainability in both the short and long term as well as those effects on long term policy considerations, including an examination of existing healthcare disparities due to economic, geographic, racial or other factors.

Planning Board closes several public hearings

PLANNING FROM PAGE 1

public hearing for the conservation subdivision design special permit at 79 Nichols St. Here, Attorney Jill Elmstrom explained that the comments they received tonight referred to a packet that was missing their previous response to the town engineer's comments. She specified that the safety concerns were met and agreed upon by the Wilmington Fire Department in advance of the meeting.

Other updates she mentioned were confirming the right to install the sewer system and connect to Wilmington's system; honoring the 30-foot setback required everywhere; and opening the walking trail along the Middlesex Canal to the general public.

There was one public comment received by Sierra Pelletier that described the property as trying to do too much in too small of a space. The board agreed to continue the public hearing until Feb. 2 and reiterated they should submit revisions within two weeks. Gingrich also said that they would circle back with the WFD on their comments.

Next, they ended the public hearings for a sign special permit for 205-207 Lowell St. and a parking

relief special permit for 100 Eames St. The sign was allowed for 205-207 Lowell St. with the condition that they take down another older sign that technically no longer fell on their property.

For 100 Eames St., the representing attorney explained that the interior rearrangement required more parking spaces but would not change anything on the exterior or the number of employees or people at the site.

They moved onto Form A, which Sierra Pelletier shared regards 20 Hopkins St. being divided into two lots. One would be given to Kenneth Chisholm, and the other would be a frontage exception lot. They voted to accept the form as submitted.

The board voted to allow the site plan review, multi-family special permit, and definitive subdivision on 635 Main St. They considered a request for an extension on Murray Hill's completion deadline for an extra year, but instead voted to extend only until Aug. 31, 2021 given that the only work left is on part of the sidewalk and the final pavement.

Their last request was to waive the site plan review for a new HVAC system and other maintenance changes at 201 Lowell St., which they accepted.

Gingrich then brought forward the draft of their comments on the remote participation policy being sent to the Board of Selectmen. Some of their concerns were about the quality of audio in terms of hearing discussion and comments; being able to use and see visual components; what exactly is defined as unreasonable difficulty; and what to do when there are multiple remote requests for a single meeting.

A few board members brought up unrelated issues at the end of the meeting, including reminding companies about their snow removal requirements and accessing the drop box of documents for their meetings. Both were solved quickly with Gingrich's help.

The Planning Board will next meet on Feb. 2 at 7:30 pm.



Lowell couple welcomes Lowell General's First Baby of 2021

More than 2,000 babies are born each year at The Birthplace at Lowell General Hospital, but only one can be the first. Izabela Grace Casara Cruz was born at 2:35 a.m. New Year's Day to parents Jean Casara (right) and Zuleisly Cruz (left) of Lowell. Izabela arrived a day early, her parents say, but she was ready, needing just a couple of pushes to come into the world. She is 20½ inches long and weighs 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

(Courtesy photo)



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